

PICTORIAL ESSAY 1: THE MARCS BABYLAB

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



The MARCS BabyLab at Western Sydney University conducts world leading research into the building blocks of language acquisition, speech perception, bilingualism and reading in infants from birth to 2-years, and children aged 3 to 12-years. Positioned within the MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development, the BabyLab is at the forefront of infant research in Australia.

After each visit to the MARCS BabyLab, WSU research participants graduate from their study, working their way through the ranks from Bachelor degree to PhD. Some current research studies that our participants are involved in include investigating the pre-cursors or early determinants of dyslexia, how socio-economic status and maternal education can affect a child's early language acquisition, the effect that post-natal



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depression in mothers can have on a child's early communication skills, the effects of language development in infants with hearing loss, and the benefits of bilingualism.

The non-invasive research techniques used by The MARCS BabyLab have been designed to model interactive play time so the experience is enjoyable for parents and children alike.

Researchers monitor infant responses using state of the art equipment including eye tracking, heart rate and EEG technology. These studies provide a window into the mind of infants acquiring the building blocks of language. The Marcs BabyLab is the foremost infant research laboratory in Australia, and on par with the best internationally in terms of facilities, resources, equipment and the number of participating (and graduating!) infants.



