

Research Methods

- Types of research
- Developmental research designs
- Ethics

Types of Research

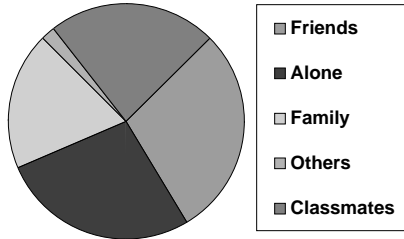
- Descriptive
- Correlational
- Experimental

Descriptive Research

Example:

How do adolescents spend their time?

People with whom adolescents spend their time
(Csikszentmihalyi & Larson, 1994)



Correlational Research

Example:

Are children's friendships related to their relationships with siblings?

Becoming a sibling...

	Sibling interaction at	
	6 months	14 months
Peer play quality	.44*	.47*
Fantasy play	.25	.51*

(Kramer & Gottman, 1992)

Interpretation

- affective experience
- emotional support
- working through issues
- particular child characteristics

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Experimental Research

Example:

Does drawing improve children's memory for an event?

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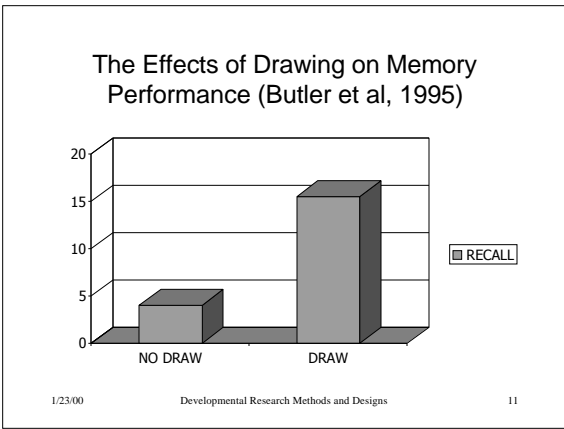


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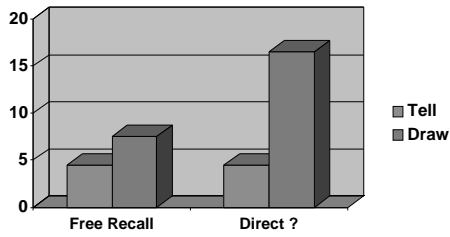


Measures

- Independent variable:
drawing vs telling alone
- Dependent variable:
memory performance

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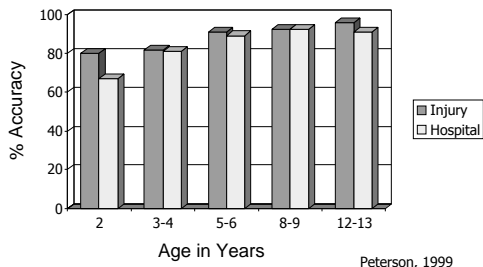
The Effects of Drawing on Memory Performance (Butler et al, 1995)

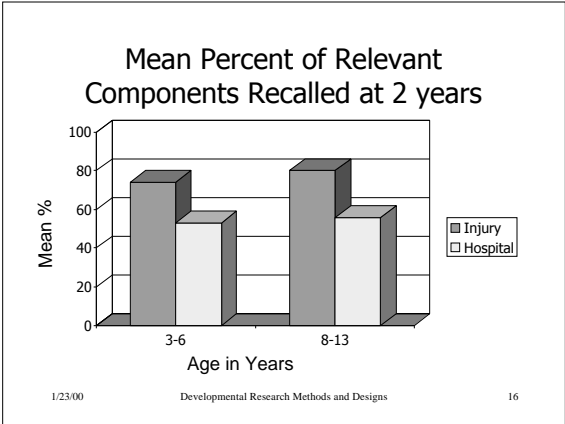


Developmental Designs

- Cross-sectional
- Longitudinal
- Sequential
- Microgenetic

Children's Memory for Medical Emergencies: 2 Years Later





Cross-sectional

- Cheap and fast
- tells little about how change occurs
- cohort effects

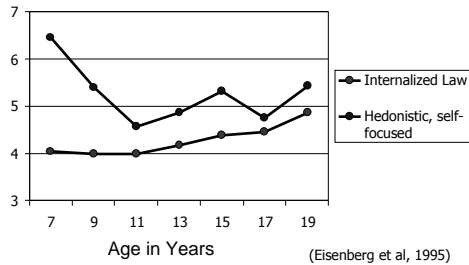
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Longitudinal

- see patterns of change
- subjects are own control
- expensive
- high drop out rates
- practice effects
- how to assess same behavior at different ages
- other events cloud conclusions

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Prosocial Development from 7 to 19



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Cross-sequential

- same strength and weaknesses as longitudinal, just not as striking
- less time, less \$

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Microgenetic

- target process of change

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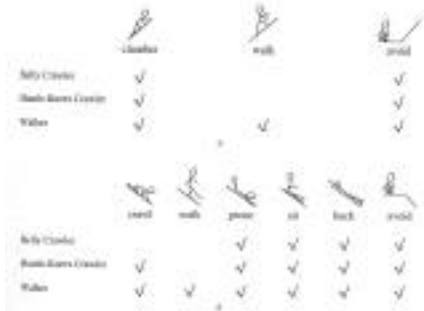
Infant Locomotion (Adolph, 1997)



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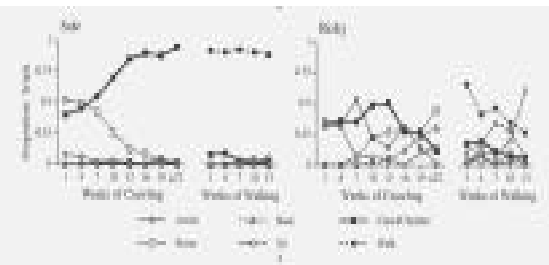


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Strategies on "Safe" and "Risky" Declines



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Microgenetic

- Expensive
- High drop out rates
- Practice effects/boring

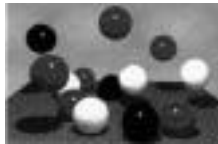
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Are you doing all you can to stimulate your infant's development?



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The Objectives of Babyscapes

- Faciliate parent-child bonding
- Provide multi-sensory learning
- Increase attention span

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Experimental Design

- Random assignment
 - random sampling rare
 - representative sampling
- Selection bias
- Subject variables
- Differential “mortality”

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**Ethics:
Selected Issues**

- Do no harm!
- Informed consent
- Confidentiality
- Obtain necessary assistance
- Beneficial treatments

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