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The Relationship Between Focused Attention and Object Permanence in Infants with Motor Delays
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ABSTRACT:
- Object Permanence (OP) and Focused Attention (FA) are two cognitive skills developed in early infancy.
- The relationship between the two in infants with motor delays is poorly understood.
- The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between FA in early independent sitting and OP one year later in infants with motor delays.

METHODS:
- 15 infants aged 8-16 months old.
- Given a series of 8 object permanence tasks.
- Scored for total object permanence at 12 months.
- Scored for global focused attention at 1.5 months for two OP tasks.

OP TASKS SCORED FOR FA:
1. Displacement
2. Switch

RESULTS:
- 1.5mo Switch FA vs. 12mo Total OP
- 1.5mo Displacement FA vs. 12mo Total OP

CONCLUSION:
- Focused attention early in development contributes to building cognitive constructs, such as object permanence, in infants with motor delays.
- The higher correlation between displacement FA and future OP highlights the important of gaze and eye tracking in early infancy.

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