

2000 – 2003

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“Music Learning and Memory by Human Infants”

\$110,000

Dr. Saffran studied infants’ abilities to track patterns of absolute and relative pitches during complex learning tasks to determine the types of pitch information detected and used early in life. The study also explored the role played by consonance and dissonance tonalities in infant learning and probed infant long-term memory for music, with the goal of specifying the parameters of infant musical memory. The study revealed the profound pitch-pattern discrimination ability of infants as early as eight months old, and it provided insight into innate perfect pitch ability exhibited by infants in pre-verbal period of development.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS, ETC.:

In press

- Saffran, J.R., K. Reeck, A. Niehbur and D.P. Wilson. “Changing the tune: Absolute and relative pitch processing by adults and infants.” *Developmental Science*.

2004

- McMullen, E., and J.R. Saffran “Music and language: A developmental comparison.” *Music Perception* 21(2004): 289-311.

2003

- Saffran, J.R. “Mechanisms of musical memory in infancy.” *The Cognitive Neuroscience of Music*. Eds: R. Zatorre and I. Peretz. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. 32-42.
- Saffran, J.R. “Musical learning and language development.” *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 999(2003): 397-401.
- Saffran, J.R. “Absolute pitch in infancy and adulthood: The role of tonal structure.” *Developmental Science* 6(2003): 37-45.
- Saffran, J.R. “Response: Birds do it, why not babies?” *Developmental Science* 6(2003): 45-49.

2002

- Saffran, J.R., M. M. Loman and R. R. W. Robertson. “Infant memory for musical experiences.” *Cognition* 77(2000): 15-23.

2001

- Saffran, J.R., and G.J. Griepentrog. “Absolute pitch in infant auditory learning: Evidence for developmental reorganization.” *Developmental Psychology* 37(2001): 74-85.
- Saffran, J.R., M.M. Loman and R.R.W. Robertson. “Infant long-term memory for music.” *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 930(2001): 397-400.

Conference papers

2004

- Saffran, J.R. “Statistical learning of language and music by infants.” The Brain, Music, and Sound Workshop, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. 15 October 2004.

2002

- Saffran, J.R. “Musical learning and language development.” The neurosciences and music: Mutual interactions and implications on developmental functions, San Servolo Island, Venice, Italy. 25-27 October 2002.

- Saffran, J.R., and G.J. Griepentrog. “Statistical learning of tone sequences: The role of absolute pitch.” International Conference on Infant Studies, Brighton Conference Centre, Brighton, England. July 2002.

2001

- Saffran, J.R. “Statistical learning of auditory and linguistic patterns.” Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States. April 2001.

2000

- Saffran, J.R., M.M. Loman and R.R.W. Robertson. “Infant long-term memory for music.” New York Academy of Sciences Conference on the Biological Foundations of Music, New York, New York, United States. May 2000.