

In our lab today, we'll be testing the hypothesis that babies can count as early as five months of age.

今天在我们的实验室，我们将会测试这个假设，就是婴儿早在五个月大时就能计数了。

The six babies here are all less than six months old.

这里的六个婴儿全部小于六个月大。

You'll be watching them on closed-circuit TV and measuring their responses.

你们将在闭路电视上观看他们，然后衡量他们的反应

The experiment is based on the well-established observation that babies stare longer if they don't see what they expect to see.

实验是基于已经得到确认的观察报告，就是如果婴儿们没看到他们期待看到的东西的话，他们会凝视久一些。

First, we're going to let two dolls move slowly in front of the babies.

首先，我们将会让两个玩偶在婴儿们的前面缓缓移动。

The babies will see the two dolls disappear behind a screen.

婴儿们将会看到两个玩偶消失在一个屏风的后面。

Your job is to record, in seconds, how long the babies stare at the dolls when the screen is removed.

你们的工作是记录，以秒为单位，当屏风被移开时，婴儿们会盯着玩偶看多久。

In the next stage, two dolls will again move in front of the babies and disappear.

接下来，两个玩偶将依然在婴儿们面前移动并且消失。

But then a third doll will follow.

不过第三个玩偶将会跟随着。

When the screen is removed, the babies will only see two dolls.

当屏风被移走时，婴儿们将只会看到两个玩偶。

If we're right, the babies will now stare longer because they expect three dolls but only see two.

如果我们是正确的，婴儿们现在将会凝视的更久些，因为他们期待看到三个玩偶，但是只看见两个

It seems remarkable to think that such young children can count.

想想这么小的孩子能计数似乎非同寻常。

My own research has convinced me that they have this ability from birth.

我自己的研究说服了我，他们从出生就有这种能力。

But whether they do or not, perhaps we should raise another question.

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但不论他们是真有还是没有，也许我们都应该提出另一个问题。

Should we take advantage of this ability by teaching children mathematics at such a young age?

我们应该在如此小的年龄就利用这个能力来教孩子们数学吗？

They have great untapped potential, but is it good for parents to pressure young children?

他们拥有巨大的尚未开发的潜能，但是对家长来说去这样去给小孩子压力好吗？