

Seeking infants to participate in a simple scientific study

Meet me online with your baby and watch videos of different sign languages!

30-40 minutes of your time for a \$20 gift card

This project investigates how early language experience impacts Deaf children, and it will help to determine the importance of language environment for all children, Deaf and hearing.

The project is simple and fun. You present videos to your baby on a computer screen. I record your infant's responses and later analyze their eye gaze to see what they are watching. I have a few background forms for you to fill out, and a few questions about the language used at home. That's it!

Requirements for participating in the study

1. An infant between the age of 5 months - 18 months
2. An internet connection that is strong enough to watch videos clearly
3. A tablet or computer that can run Zoom (screen at least 13") and participate with video.
4. A time when you and your infant will be uninterrupted for 15 minutes
5. A quiet space in your house without any toys or other distractions

Parent set-up questions

- What is the best time of day for your baby? Could we schedule a time right after feeding?
- Where in your house could you set up for the study?
 - Is the room fairly dark and free of distractions?
 - Can you set up so that the infant is facing directly away from the door?
 - Is there a way to have your baby secure and comfortable (in your lap or a high chair) and have the screen 18" away from your baby's face?
 - Can you check that there is no backlighting or glare that would make the screen more visible on one side or the other?

Preliminary Meeting

1. We will set up a time to meet on Zoom to practice technology and check set up. This can be the same day as we run the study, or it can be earlier.
2. Before the meeting, please make sure that Zoom is installed on your computer/tablet. If you have not installed Zoom before, please go to <https://zoom.us/support/download> to download the desktop app.
3. We will look at the space you plan to use and make sure it can be set up correctly. We will test video quality in that space.
4. We will review the consent forms to make sure you feel comfortable and all of your questions have been answered.
5. I will run through a short interview with you about language use at home.

Procedure

The following 6 slides explain each step of the process with illustrations.

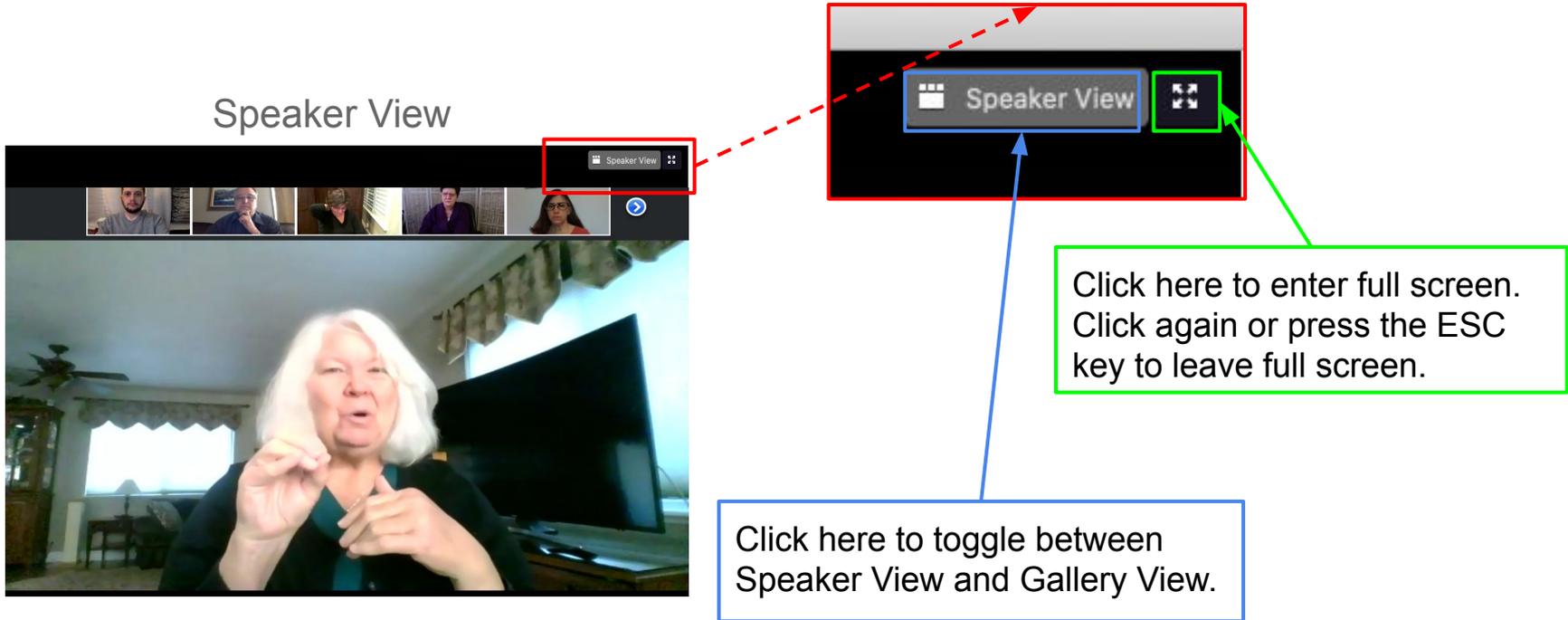
If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at:

shane.blau@gallaudet.edu

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Gallaudet Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB). If you have further questions, you may contact the chairperson of the Gallaudet IRB at

irb@gallaudet.edu

- 1) Join Zoom with the invitation from me and set the options to Speaker View and Full Screen.



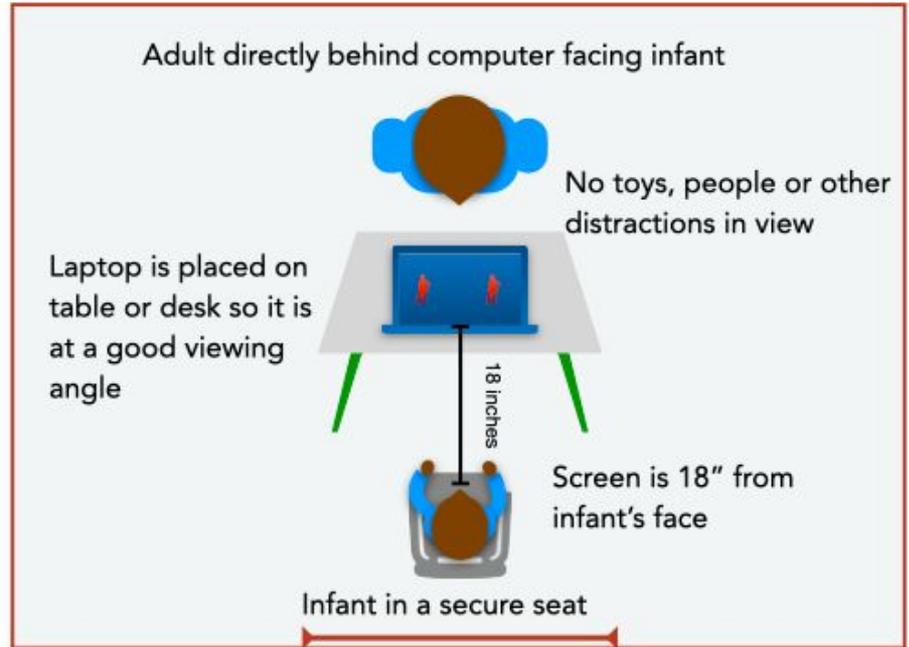
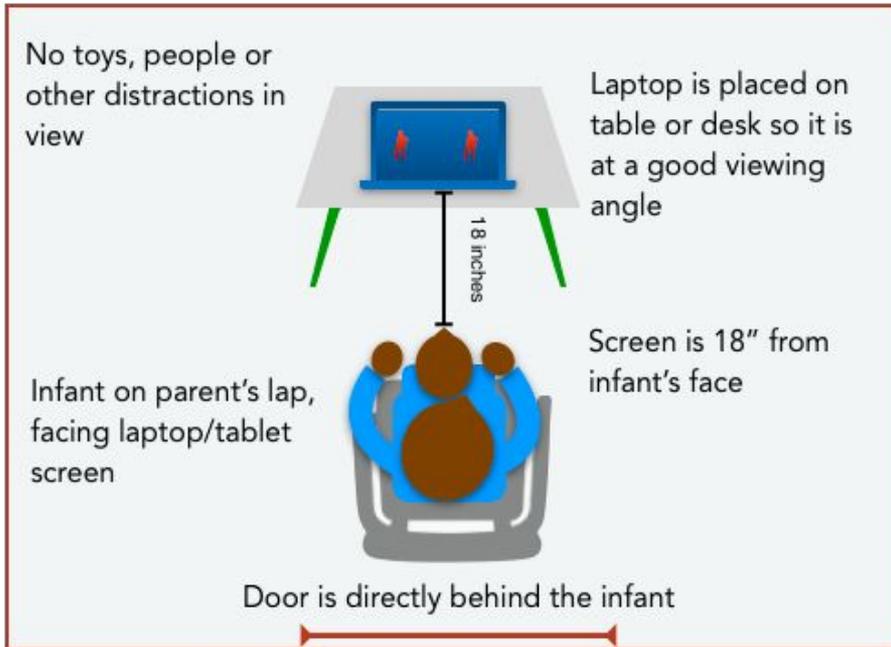
The image shows a Zoom meeting interface in Speaker View. The main video feed shows a woman with white hair speaking. Above her is a gallery view of other participants. A red dashed arrow points from a 'Speaker View' button in the gallery view to a larger inset showing the 'Speaker View' button and a full-screen icon. A blue arrow points from a text box to the 'Speaker View' button, and a green arrow points from another text box to the full-screen icon.

Speaker View

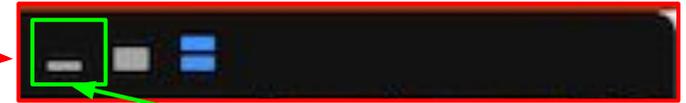
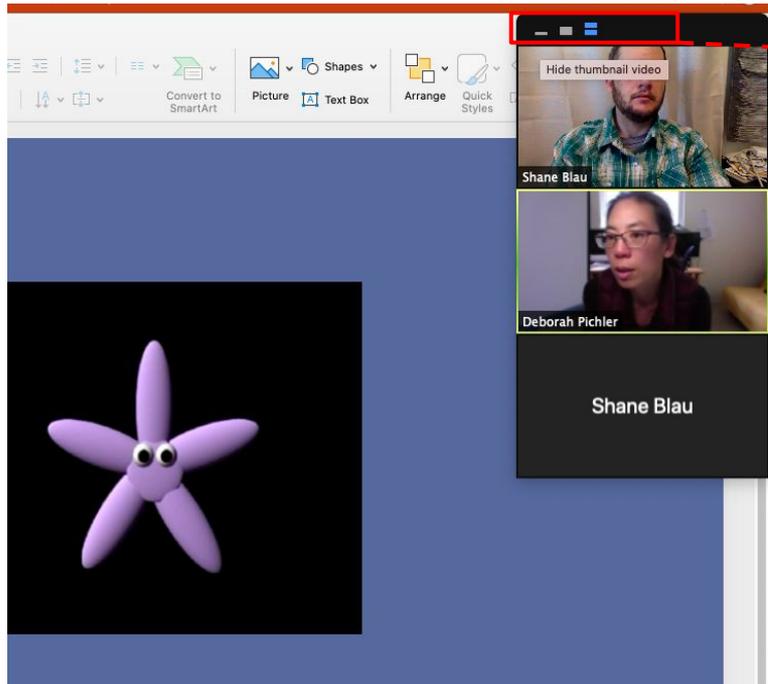
Click here to toggle between Speaker View and Gallery View.

Click here to enter full screen. Click again or press the ESC key to leave full screen.

- 2) Once you are in the room where we have practiced, settle your infant comfortably either in a secured infant seat or in your lap. Place the computer on a table or desk 18" in front of your baby. Make sure that the computer is at a good angle for your child to see the screen clearly.

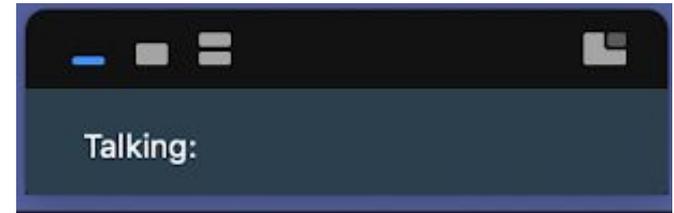


- 3) I will share my screen. When I do, you will need to hide the thumbnail videos that show our faces. To do so, click on the smallest icon on the video thumbnail bar.



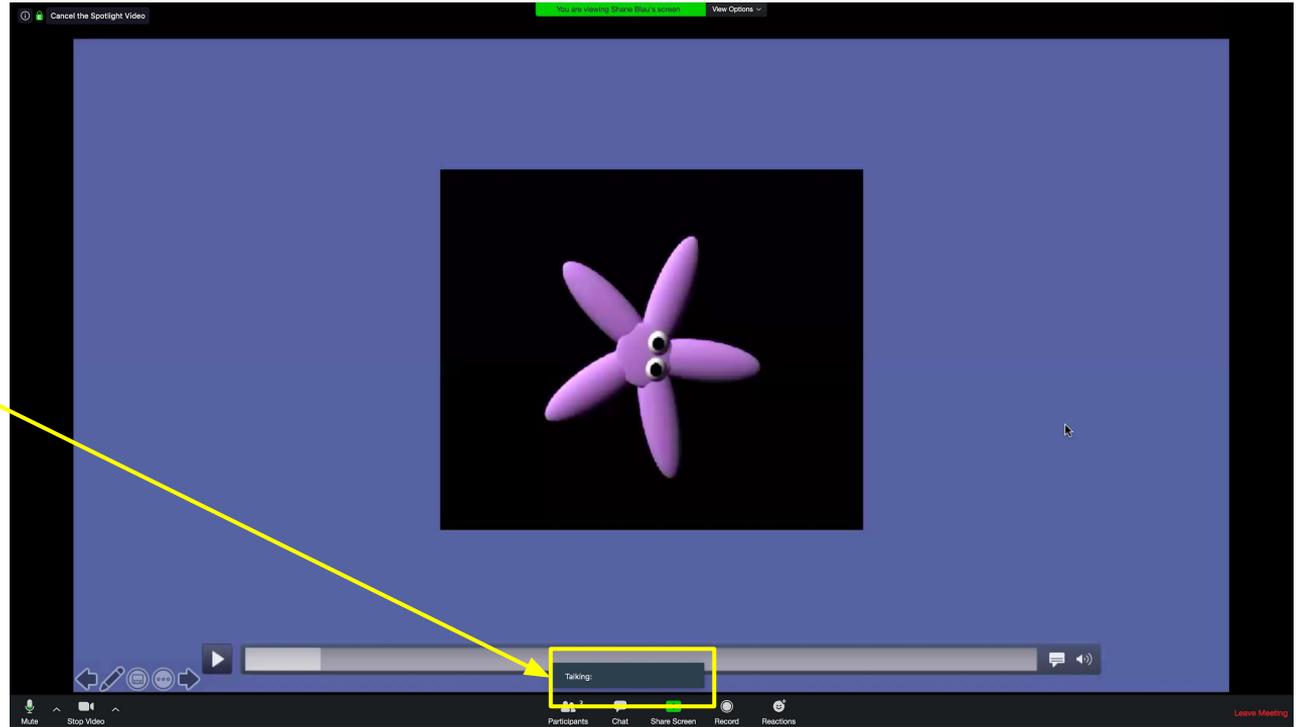
Click to hide thumbnail videos

Result: A small window with text only.

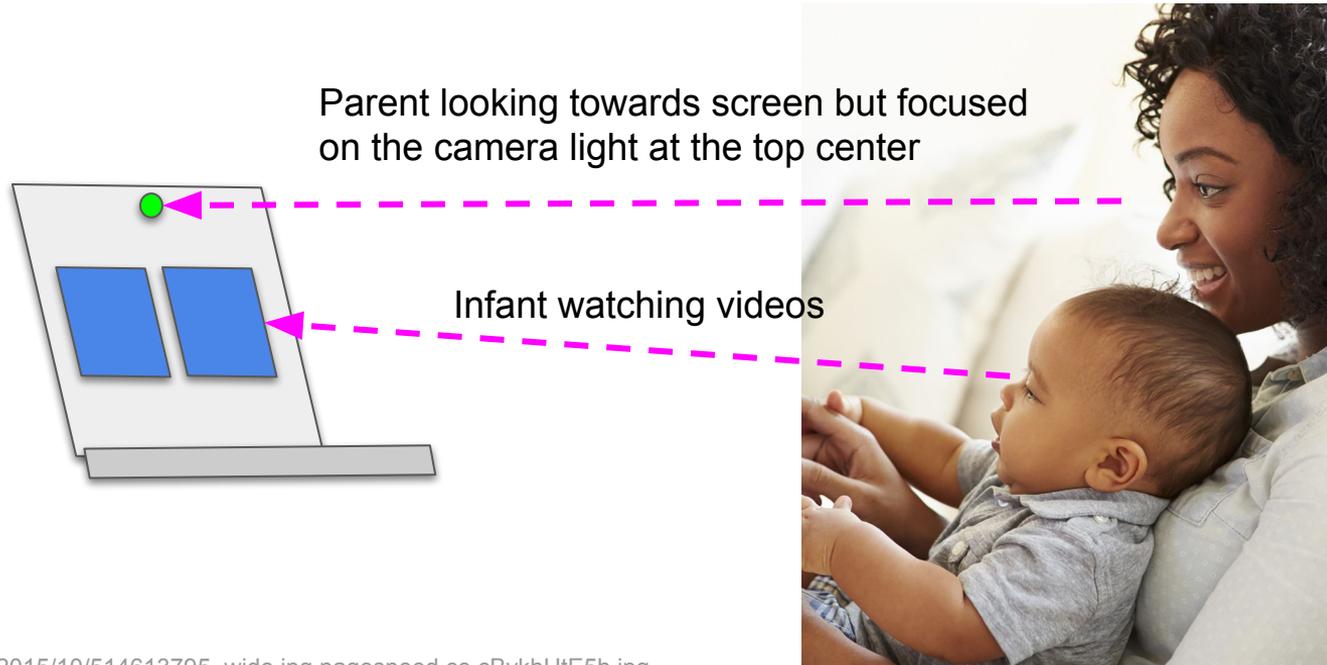


- 4) Please move the small window to the bottom center of the screen so it is out of the way and in the center.

Place the small window here



- 5) Once you and your child are comfortable and the screen is set up, I will begin to show the videos. Please do not watch the videos yourself. You can accidentally influence your child's response. Focus your eyes directly at the camera light so that you are looking at the center of the screen and not to the right or left.



- 6) If your child is fussing or distracted, gently try to settle them so they can see the screen again and look towards the screen yourself. Please do not point to the screen or use any language to encourage the infant to watch. You are welcome to stop or take a break at any time.



Thank you for your help!