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Emotional Development in Children Receiving Head Start Services

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Poster Presentation P54

**EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN RECEIVING
HEAD START SERVICES**

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This study examined the ability of 3- to 5-year-old children receiving Head Start services to identify the six emotions (happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, and disgust). Participants were randomly divided into two groups; face first or story first. Children were then asked to identify either the emotions depicted by facial expressions (face first group) or the emotions described in behavioral stories (story first group). A Behavior Superiority Effect for fear, anger, and disgust indicated that the story was significantly more helpful than the face in the identification of these emotions. Participants who were unable to correctly identify the emotion based on the face or story were provided with additional information in the form of a story or face (face first received story, story first received face). The subsequent presentation of the story to children in the face first condition significantly increased the number of correct responses. In both conditions, children's ability to correctly identify emotion increased with age.