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Master in Psychology
Developmental Psychology

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Developmental Psychology: Introduction

Developmental Psychology *is the study of systematic psychological, cognitive, and neurobiological (brain) changes that occur in humans over the course of their life span*

- Development across infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood is studied

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Developmental Psychology: Focus

- The **focus** of the Master in Developmental Psychology at Maastricht University is on:
  - **cognitive** development
  - **neurobiological** development

Developmental Psychology: Study Topics

Some examples of studied topics are:

1. **Development of cognitive skills** such as:
    - *Language acquisition*
    - *Perception*
    - *Attention*
    - *Memory*
    - *Motor skills*
    - *Problem solving*
    - *Executive control*

Developmental Psychology: Study topics

Some other examples of studied topics are:

2. **Development of other psychological processes** such as:
   - *Social-emotional development*
   - *The forming of self-concept*
   - *The forming of identity*

Developmental Psychology: Study Topics

- You will learn which **biological** (genes, brain, psychopharmacological) and **environmental** factors are underlying such development
- And you will study **psychopathological development** in for example:
  - *ADHD*
  - *Autism*
  - *Gilles de la Tourette*
  - *Dyslexia*
  - *Dyscalculia*
  - *Williams Syndrome*

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Developmental Psychology: Research Methods

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Developmental Psychology: Programme

4 core course, 2 research practicals

	Sept-Oct: 7 weeks	*Nov-Dec: 7 weeks*
	Infancy 	Development of Cognition & Language 
	Perception, Attention & Motor Development 	Social & Emotional Development 
	Experimental Practicum **or** EEG/ERP Practical	Practicum Psychological Testing

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Developmental Psychology: Programme

Research Internship and thesis

- January – August

- This can be done:
  - In research group at FPN (see later slide)
  - Elsewhere at FPN
  - Outside UM in clinical setting
  - Outside UM at other university

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Infancy Course

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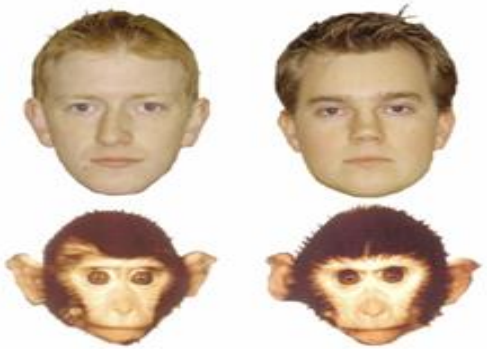
Is face perception species-specific from birth on or is it learned?



Learning plays a role: **6-month** old babies **can** discriminate different human and monkey faces. However, **9-month** olds **can't**. They only discriminate human faces!

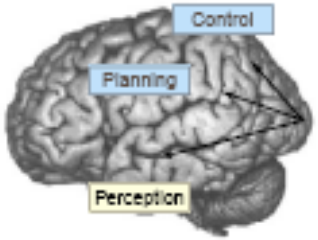
9-month old babies can **regain** the ability to discriminate monkey faces when **trained** to do so. This points to the big **role of experience** on visual perception development.

Perception attention and motor development

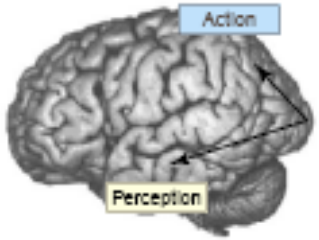
Infants around 2 years of age sometimes make “scale errors”:

This is related to immature communication between brain areas that regulate perception and action

Planning vs. Control



Planning vs. Action



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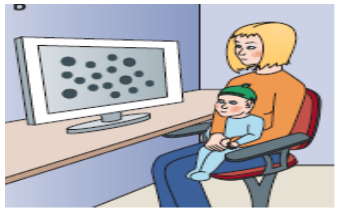
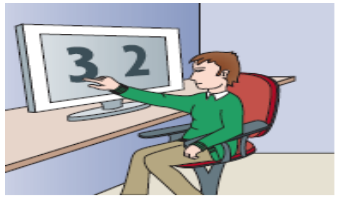
Development of Cognition and Language

Number sense is crucial for mathematics development

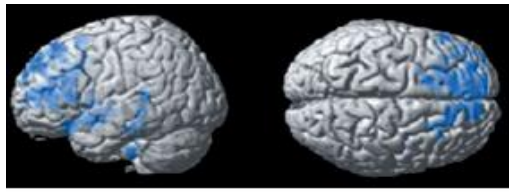


What do we know about the development of number sense?



- Intuitive sense of number, (small quantities) present in infancy
- Understanding of symbolic numbers starts at preschool age

- School age children activate more frontal areas when doing calculations -> more effort, less automated

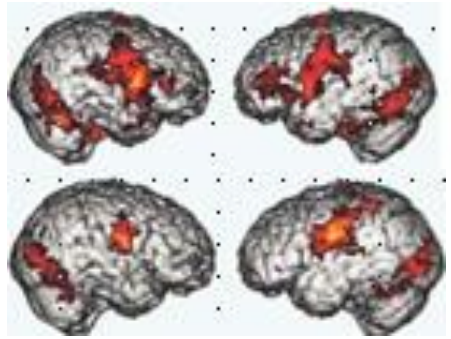


Social-emotional development

Imitation is highly important for learning of motor actions, but also for emotional development:

- Biological basis of imitation of actions and emotions: **mirror neurons**

- Autistic children have problems with imitation and understanding others
- Role of mirror neuron system?



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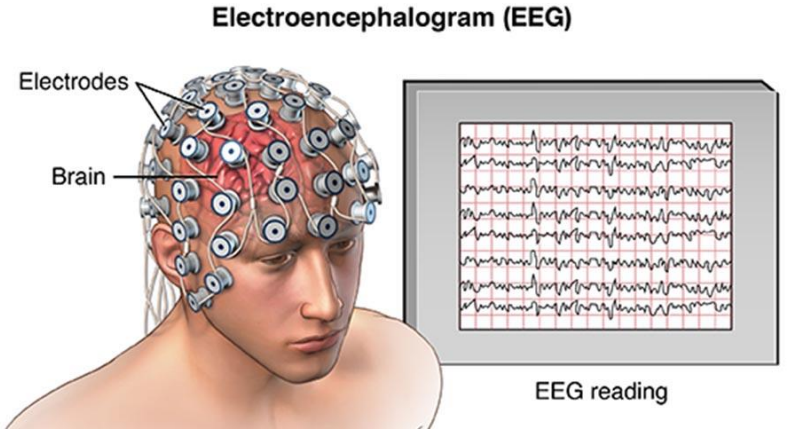
EEG-ERP practical



- Learn the basics of EEG/ERP analyses
- Learn what you can do with EEG/ERPs
- Learn how to apply cap and electrodes and perform your own EEG measurements
- Learn when to apply EEG

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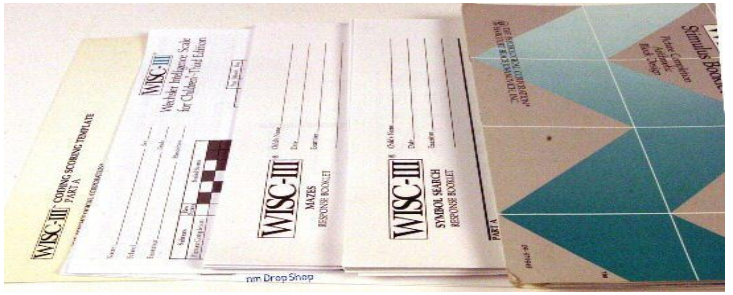
Test practical

- Testing a child (e.g. IQ test)
- Interpreting results (e.g. Bayley)
- Developing your own test



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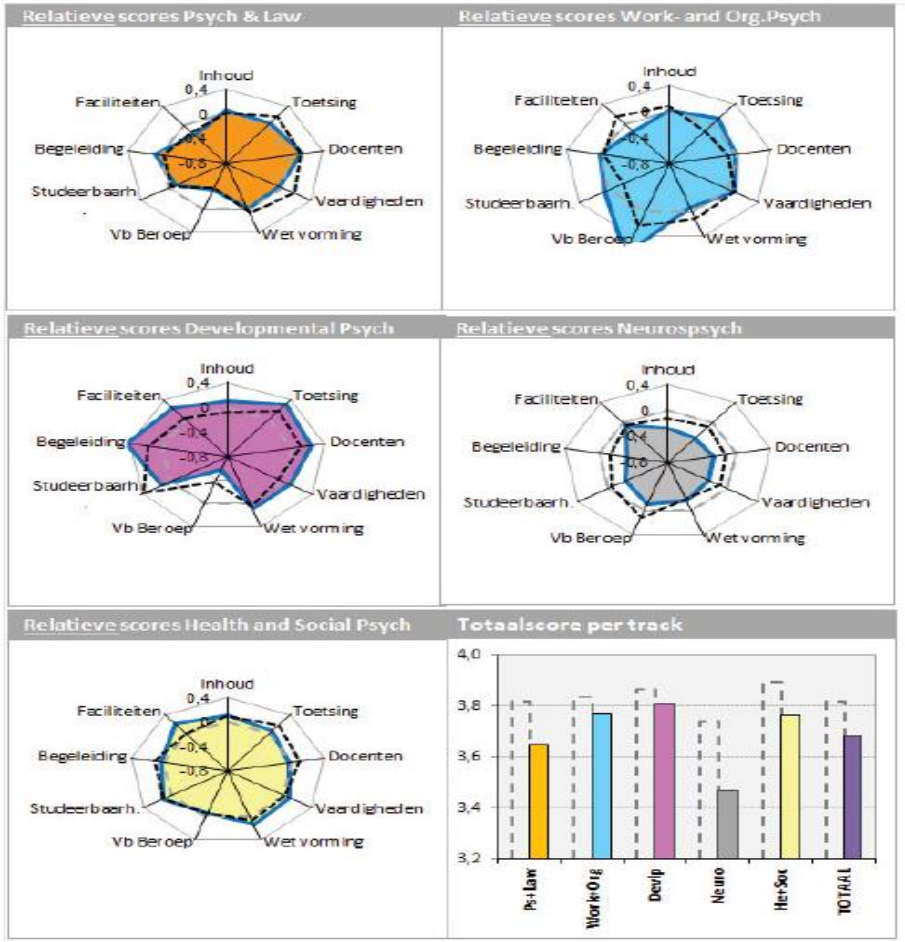
Evaluations

Student course evaluations:

	2016/2017 (N=29)	**2017/2018** (N= 37)
Infancy:	8.2	8.6
Perception:	7.9	8.1
Cognition:	7.6	8.4
Social-emot:	7.8	8.0
Practical 1:	8.0	7.4
Practical 2:	7.0	7.1

National student evaluation C.H.O.I. 2017



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Developmental Psychology: Internship topics

Some examples of topics within our own developmental group:

- ADHD, attention & executive control development and mindfulness/cognitive training (L. Jonkman)
- Autism, attention & perception development (H. Stauder)
- Learning and Memory development (F. Donkers)
- Number development & dyscalculia (L. Jonkman)
- Genetics and Development (H. Smit)
- Motor development (H. Van Mier)
- But of course also possible to select your own topics; internships in one's own country, with other colleagues, at other universities, lots of possibilities!

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Information for Dutch speaking students that want to do an extracurricular clinical internship (NOT part of 1-year DP Master):

- To get “Basis Aantekening-Psychodiagnostiek (BAPD-NIP)”, you need to do a NIP-approved Psychology Master (which the Developmental Master is) **and** a clinical internship under guidance of a certified clinician

- You need the BAPD to be able to enroll in the post-master clinical education programmes in the Netherlands (GZ-opleiding), and to become a NIP member

- Note that also in Germany (Landesprüfungsamt Nordrhein-Westfalen) our students have been approved to enroll in their post-master clinical educational programme (do research internship on an applied developmental topic)

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Two choices for clinical internship (in NL/Dutch): (NOT part of the 1-year developmental master!)

- Do it extra-curricular (***after*** finishing the Developmental Master) as a contract-student (costs 75% of regular Master fee)
- Do a second Dutch clinical/mental health Master (e.g. Kinder- en Jeugd Psychologie or Volwassenen Psychologie) at FHML faculty after the Psychology (developmental) master
  - Advantages: extra Master degree, long clinical internship, and 1-day a week extra education

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Career-perspectives

- **Psychologist** (diagnostics and/or treatment)
  - at schools (psychological/educational assistant)
  - in mental health care institutions (in Netherlands e.g. RIAGG's)
  - government agencies (counsel for child protection, clinical institutions, etc.)
  - revalidation clinics
  - (neuro)psychologist in hospitals

- **Lecturer**
  - at vocational level (bijv. hogeschool)
  - at university

- **Researcher**
  - at university
  - in industry or consultancy
  - other research institutions (in Netherlands e.g. TNO)

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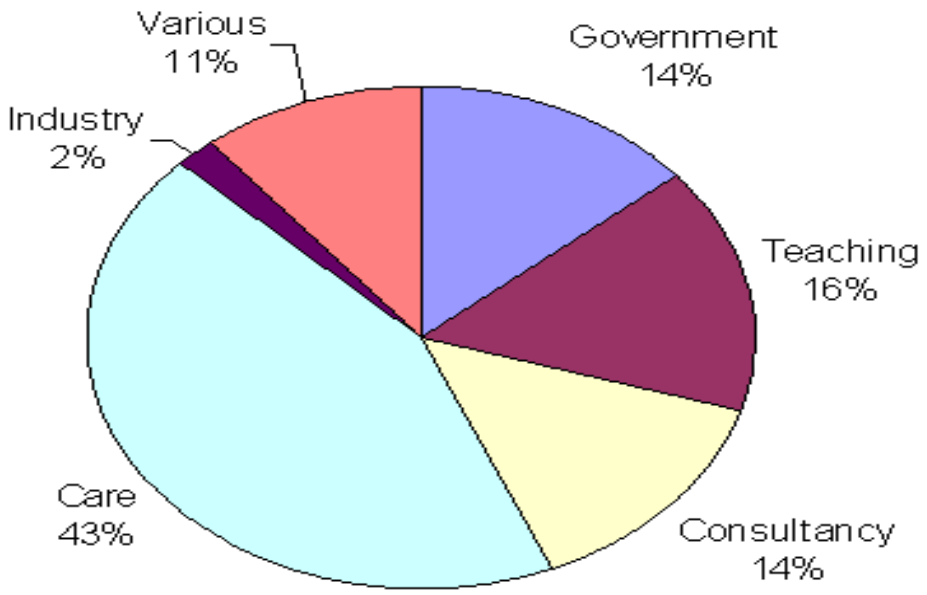
Career perspectives



Enkele gegevens over hoe het de afgestudeerden op de arbeidsmarkt is vergaan:

Bruto maandloon	€ 2667.96
Tijd voordat men een baan vond	2,73 maanden
% Werkend	87.05 %
% Studerend	6.64 %
% Vaste baan	24.74 %
% Voltijd baan	75.1 %
% Baan op niveau	72.21 %
% Tevreden over aansluiting	41.1 %
% Tevreden over studiekeuze	84.18 %

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Admission Requirements

Bachelor's degree		Remarks
Dutch University Bachelor Psychology	Admissible	
Non-Dutch University Bachelor Psychology	Check by Board of Admissions	
All other University Bachelors*	Check by Board of Admissions	
University of Applied Science (HBO)	Not admissible	The Faculty does not offer any pre-master programmes

** Additional requirements*

- *Courses in Statistics (min. 18 ECTS);*
- *Knowledge of Psychology (min. 4 courses);*
- *The Bachelor's degree must be substantially relevant to the Master's specialisation of your choice;*
- *You are requested to write a one-page motivation letter which specifies why you want to follow the master's programme of Psychology and the specialisation of your choice.*

For more information visit the stand 'Application & Admission' at the information market

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Thank you for your attention!

Questions?