

### BACKGROUND

- The ability to recognize the affective expressions of others is essential to adaptive social development.
- There is a general belief that individuals with autism have difficulties recognizing emotional expressions, although studies have yielded conflicting results (e.g., Celani et al., 1992 vs. Capps et al., 1992).
- Many previous experiments presented participants with static, prototypic examples of expressions for relatively long periods of time. However, in daily interactions, expressions are often subtle and fleeting.
- When presented with stimuli that are more representative of emotional expressions encountered in daily interactions, individuals with autism may demonstrate more pronounced difficulties with emotion recognition.

### RESULTS

- The ability to recognize the affective expressions of others is essential to adaptive social development.
- There is a general belief that individuals with autism have difficulties recognizing emotional expressions, although studies have yielded conflicting results (e.g., Celani et al., 1992 vs. Capps et al., 1992).
- Many previous experiments presented participants with static, prototypic examples of expressions for relatively long periods of time. However, in daily interactions, expressions are often subtle and fleeting.
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### EXAMPLES OF DYNAMIC STIMULI

#### ANGER

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

#### SURPRISE

- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

### RESULTS

- There was no significant difference between the individuals with autism (M = 12.2, SD = 1.1) and the controls (M = 12.5, SD = 0.5), t(18) = -0.930, p = .360 for number of static prototypes recognized.

### REFERENCES


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