Children aged 4-8 appear to have good metacognitive ability when reporting memories from a complex event

- Confidence and reaction time are informative of memory accuracy in children, especially for ages 7-8
- Other implicit measures appear to be informative of accuracy
- Judgments about children’s reliability should not be made based on age alone

Results
- When children were incorrect, they made lower confidence judgements, had increased reaction times, and more frequently chose to hide their answers.
- Children performed more head tilts, thinking gestures, hedged more and used more fillers when their answers were incorrect.
- They also performed more boosters when their answers were accurate.
- Not many children performed head shakes, shrugs, or looked to caregiver when accurate or inaccurate, so these measures could not be used to predict children’s memory accuracy.

Confidence scale (Bruer et al, 2017)
Box sorting task (Hembacher & Ghetti, 2014)

Methods
- Children aged 4 - 8 (mean age 6.05, SD 1.39)
- N = 50 (41 after data exclusion)
- Encoded 2 complex episodic events
- Data collected over Zoom - each session recorded
- Completed a 2-alternate-forced-choice task
- Confidence rating scale (Bruer et al, 2017)
- Box sorting task (Hembacher & Ghetti, 2014)

References

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