The Philosophical Baby
What Children’s Minds Tell Us About Truth, Love, and the Meaning of Life

Alison Gopnik
Babies and the Big Questions

- Truth
- Imagination
- Consciousness
- The Meaning of Life
Evolution: The Uses of Immaturity
Truth: Bayesian Inference

\[ P(B \mid A) P(A) = P(A \mid B) P(B) / P(A) \]
Truth: Fei Xu Baby Statistics

QuickTime™ and a H.263 decompressor are needed to see this picture.
The Blicket Detector

Some blocks are blickets. Blickets make the blicket detector light up and play music.
Kushnir & Gopnik

81% make contact between block and toy when asked to “make it go”
Preschool Statistics

Block A: P=2/3

Block B: P=1/3

“Make it go”
Explanation and Exploration: Cristine Le Gare
Understanding Other Minds: Repacholi and Gopnik
Love: Attachment Styles

- Secure
- Avoidant
- Anxious
- Disorganized
Johnson et al. Theories of Love: Habituation

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
Johnson et al. Theories of Love: Caregiver Approaches

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
Johnson et al. Theories of Love: Caregiver Withdraws

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
Johnson et al. Theories of Love: Baby Approaches

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
Johnson et al. Theories of Love: Baby Withdraws

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
Imaginary Companions
Marjorie Taylor:  
*Imaginary Companions and the Children Who Create Them*
Consciousness: What is it like to be a baby?
Adult Attention - Johnson & Vul

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
Baby Attention - Johnson & Vul

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
Consciousness narrows as a function of age.

As we know more, we see less.

- Alison Gopnik & Alvy Ray Smith