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Source Monitoring and Confidence

Though past studies have examined source monitoring of visual stimuli in various modalities, source monitoring differences between children and adults have not been clearly established. To examine these differences between adult and child Ss, as well as the confidence judgments associated with their responses, Ss were asked to recall seen items consisting of abstract and concrete picture and word stimuli and make judgments on whether the recalled stimuli were pictures or words. Ss were also required to identify novel and seen items from a list of picture and word items containing both seen and novel items. Preliminary findings indicate that adult S recall and source monitoring ability exceeds that of child Ss and that their accuracy is reflected in their confidence judgments of their responses. From these results, it is evident that children are more likely than adults to forget having seen an item that they have, in fact, seen, and confuse seen items that were pictures and words. Results also showed that some abstract items were recalled in concrete descriptions for both groups of Ss. Whether or not concrete item recall exceeds that of abstract items remains to be specified.