

Transcript

One minute methods – neuroimaging

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It has been said that the mind is what the brain does. Neuroimaging techniques allow us to look inside children's brains and make inferences about how their minds work. These techniques are safe and non-invasive and can be used with children of different ages. In neuroimaging experiments children are asked to perform an action, or look at an image, or think about a particular idea. Researchers then measure which parts of their brain are working harder than others and how they are communicating with one another. Changes in the brain's electrical activity, its magnetic fields or blood flow give us an indirect measure of how the brain is processing information. When the same part of the brain is activated by the same stimulus we can build a map of the brain's functions. Child development researchers are particularly interested in when these functions emerge in development and how they change as children grow up.