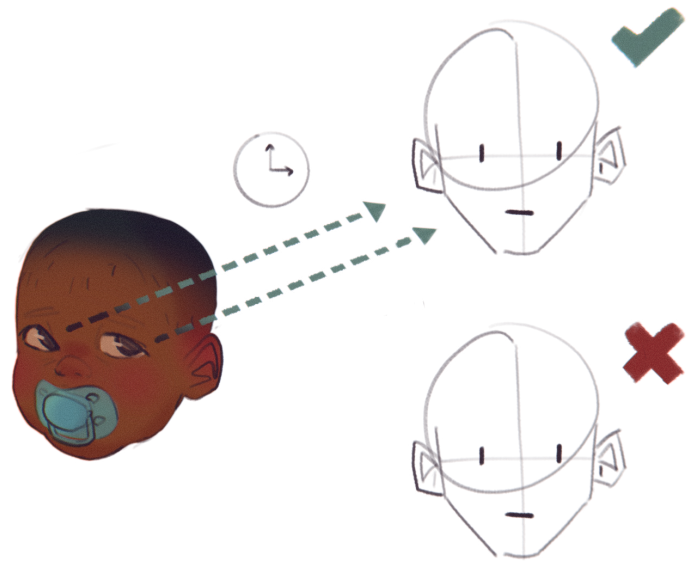


# How Does Early Social Perception in Infants Lead to Own-Race Bias and Impact Future Development?

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Environmental exposure shapes a bias toward own-race faces in infant social perception. By nine months, infants show a preference for own-race faces due to limited exposure to other races. This lack of exposure diminishes their innate ability to recognize faces from multiple racial groups. Eye-tracking studies indicate that infants spend more time looking at own-race faces with positive expressions, reinforcing familiarity. Infants begin forming basic stereotypes by observing caregivers' behaviors and expressions. These observations influence them to adopt implicit attitudes toward various racial groups. Without exposure to diversity, these early biases deepen, increasing infants' trust in same-race individuals. Providing diverse racial exposure during infancy can counteract these biases, fostering broader social preferences and reducing racial bias in later development.

## References

Xiao, N. (2023). *Early social perception in infants lead to own-race bias*. Lecture presented in PNB 2XD3 at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, March.