

# Children Are Their Own Bosses: Selective Trust in Teachers

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## Learning process

Adult's  
Authority



Child's  
Current abilities,  
Knowledge, &  
Preference

# Not always being credulous

## **A new object - Listen to a trustworthy person**

When learning a new word children trust the testimony of an informant who has been accurate in the past (Jaswal and Neely, 2006; Pasquini, Corriveau, Koenig, and Harris, 2007; Corriveau and Harris, 2009; VanderBorgh and Jaswal, 2009; Sobel and Corriveau, 2010; Corriveau, Pickard and Harris, 2011)

## **A familiar object - Believe in oneself**

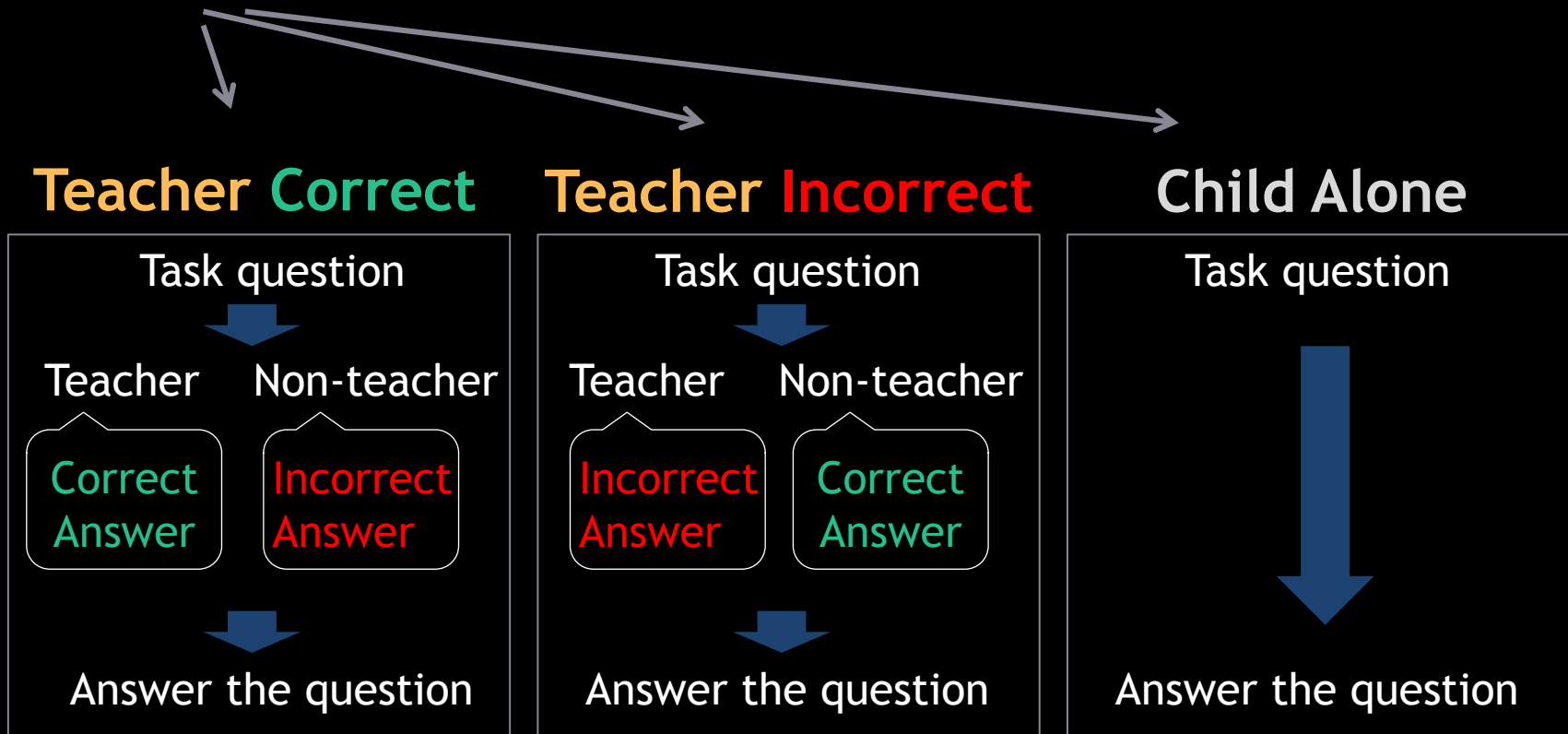
When children were asked to identify a familiar object, even 3-year-olds were persistent with their familiar label of the object instead of believing the unfamiliar label from a trustworthy adult (Clément, Koenig, & Harris, 2004; Lane, Harris, Gelman, & Wellman, 2014).

# Research goal

Examine whether and to what extent 3- to 5-year-old children trust teachers as reliable resources in comparison to the children's own current abilities, knowledge, and preferences

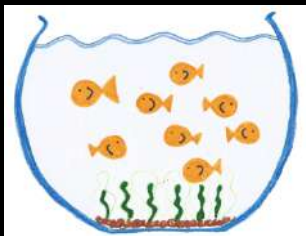
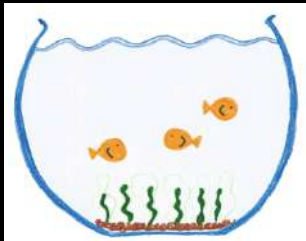
# Method

**215 children** ( 63 3-year-olds, 27 4-year-olds, & 76 5-year-olds)



# Method

Task 1.  
The number of fish



8 vs. 6

Task 2.  
Location of  
the unknown tower



Spain vs. France

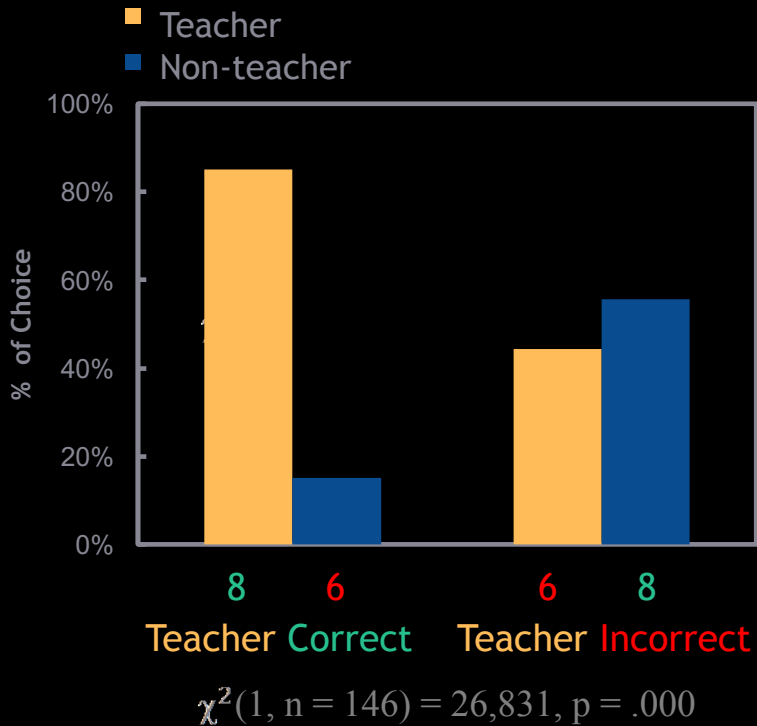
Task 3.  
Play method  
At unknown playground



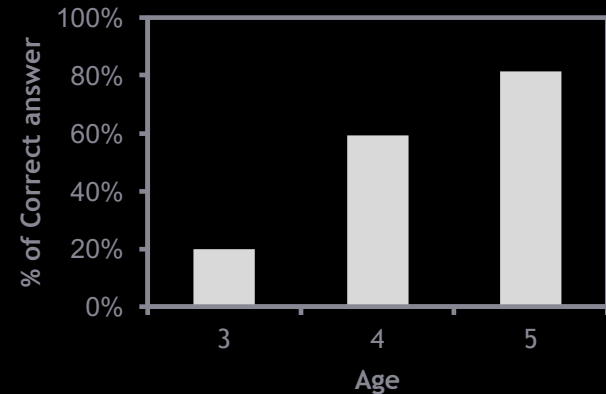
Crawling vs. Climbing

# Results

## Task 1 The number of fish

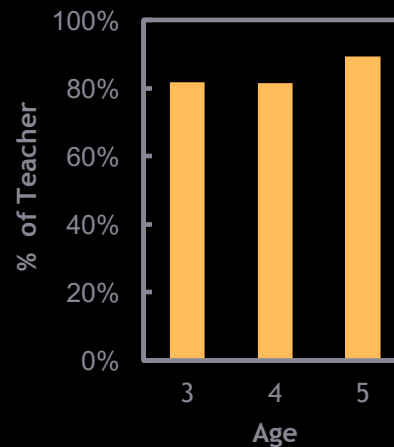


## Child Alone

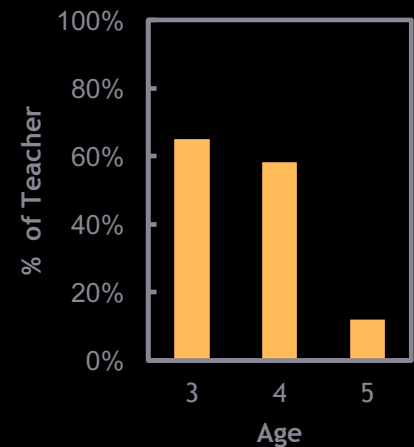


$\chi^2(6, n = 69) = 1.482, p = .002$

## Teacher Correct



## Teacher Incorrect



$\chi^2(16, n = 215) = 280.671, p = .000$

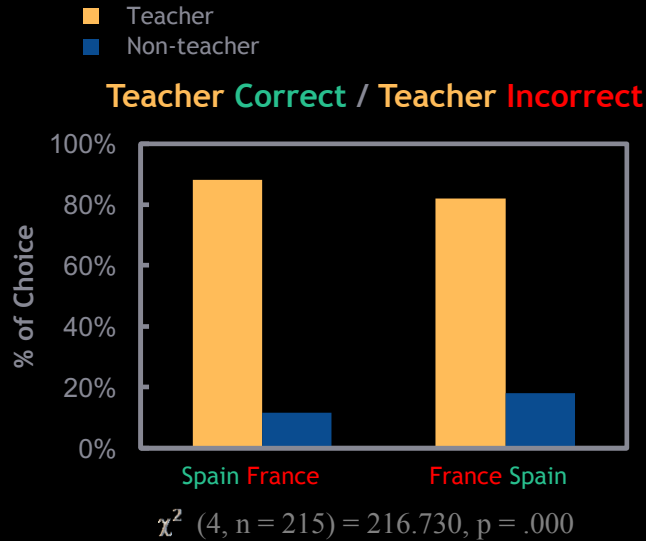
# Results

## Task 2

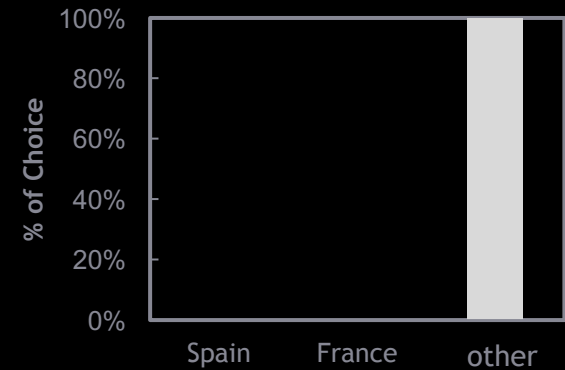
Location of the unknown tower



Spain vs. France



## Child Alone

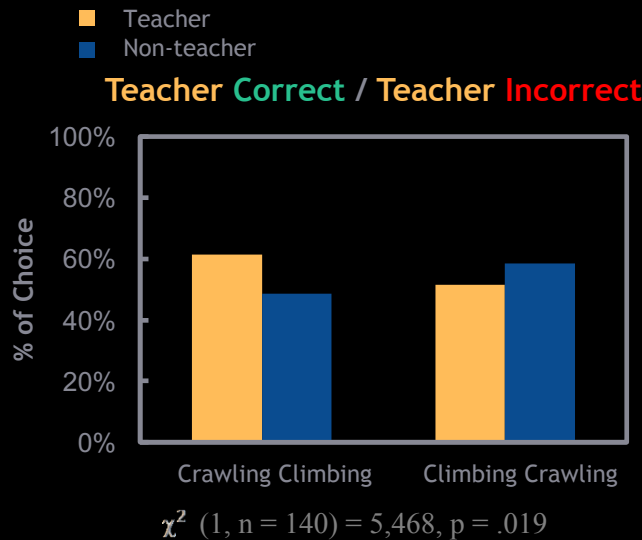


## Task 3

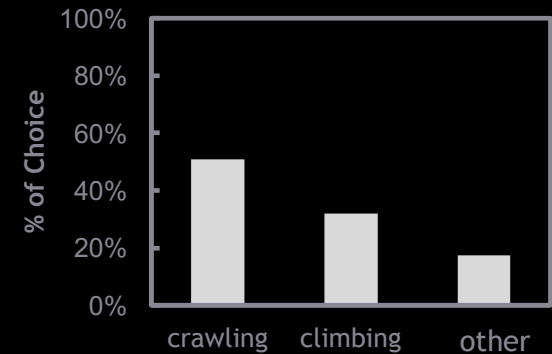
Play method At unknown playground



Crawling vs. Climbing



## Child Alone





# Conclusion

Task1, The number of Fish Children trust the teacher only when they were not capable of solving the given problem. Otherwise, they believed in themselves.

Task2, The location of unknown tower When they do not have relevant knowledge about the question, they are more likely to trust teachers more than non-teachers as reliable source.

Task3, The play method at unknown playground Perhaps, if children have preference, they are more likely to choose their preferred testimony without taking authority of the informants into consideration.

However, it is not clear that their self-reliance results from past experience with crawling at a playground . It will need further investigation.

Overall, children tended to trust teachers more than non-teachers when they do not know the answer of the question, nor demonstrate preference between given choices.

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## References

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