

**Supplemental Text 1.** *Stimulus recording and task administration.*

A male native speaker of Standard American English recorded all stimuli in a sound proof booth. All sentences were digitized and edited and the duration of each sentence measured using Audacity. Sentence durations did not significantly differ across conditions,  $t(54) = -0.45$ ,  $p = 0.65$ . A pilot study with adults confirmed the naturalness of the recordings of each stimulus item. Additional pilot studies with native English-speaking 3- and 4-year-old child participants confirmed that children could perform the task requirements.

The examiner also listened to the stimuli on a second pair of headphones. For the 8 trial sentences, repetitions were provided when necessary with feedback on imitation accuracy provided. Feedback was not given for the test items and repetition was only provided if another noise prevented the child from hearing the stimulus. Any repetitions were from the taped stimuli. The first author administered, transcribed and scored the sentence imitation task for all children. All imitations were initially transcribed online but were also taped for additional transcription and scoring. Each imitation was transcribed at the level of each individual word. Words produced by the child that were not considered real words were transcribed phonetically. To check and correct transcriptions if needed, the author listened to each taped imitation via headphones in a quiet environment.