

**Supporting Information:**

**Experiment 1:**

**Materials:** Fifteen different shapes were used as the objects in Experiment 2. All fifteen shapes were roughly the same size and were constructed out of a plastic material using a 3-D printer. Each combination of shapes was counterbalanced between subjects to avoid the potential influence of perceptual features on participants' judgments of test objects.

**Table S1: Descriptive statistics, Experiment 1**

Age group	Mean age (SD)	N (Number female)
4 year olds	4.88 (0.60)	74 (NA)
6 year olds	6.99 (0.67)	90 (NA)
9-11 year olds	10.27 (0.91)	90 (40)
12-14 year olds	13.11 (0.94)	86 (35)
Adults	NA	82 (NA)

**Table S2: Gender by condition, Experiment 1**

	4yos	4yos_Fem	6yos	6yos_Fem	10yos	10yos_Fem	13yos	13yos_Fem	Adults	Adults_Fem
Conjunctive	25	NA	30	NA	30	14	28	12	28	NA
Baseline	24	NA	30	NA	30	16	29	12	26	NA
Disjunctive	25	NA	30	NA	30	10	29	11	28	NA

**Table S3: Model comparisons for gender and experimenter effects**

We compared statistical models of participant gender and experimenter gender in order to investigate the possibility of gender effects in our sample of older children and adolescents. Each model was compared to the null model and none of these comparisons reached statistical significance.

Models compared:	Residual df	Residual deviance	df	Deviance	P
M <sub>1</sub> : Null model	175	166.90			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ participant gender	174	166.03	1	0.865	= .352
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Null model	175	166.90			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ experimenter gender	174	163.45	1	3.448	= .063
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Null Model	175	166.90			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ participant gender X experimenter gender	172	161.04	3	5.858	= .1187

**Table S4: Model comparisons for 'D' test object**

Models compared:	Residual df	Residual deviance	df	Deviance	P
M <sub>1</sub> : Null model	421	486.32			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	415	358.84	6	127.48	< 0.001***
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Age group	417	438.30			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	415	358.84	2	79.46	< 0.001***
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition	419	417.78			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	415	358.84	4	58.95	< 0.001***
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	415	358.84			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition X Age group	407	349.10	8	9.74	0.284

\*: Significant at p < 0.05 level

\*\*: Significant at p < 0.01 level

\*\*\*: Significant at p < 0.001 level

**Table S5: Models comparisons for ‘E’ test object**

Note that the degrees of freedom are 1 degree lower than the ‘D’ and ‘F’ object judgments, this is because one participant declined to make a judgment about the ‘E’ object.

Models compared:	Residual df	Residual deviance	df	Deviance	P
M <sub>1</sub> : Null model	420	431.66			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	414	367.12	6	64.55	< 0.001***
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Age group	416	391.01			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	414	367.12	2	23.89	< 0.001***
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition	418	410.32			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	414	367.12	4	43.21	< 0.001***
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	414	367.12			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition X Age group	406	355.51	8	11.601	0.169

\*: Significant at  $p < 0.05$  level

\*\*: Significant at  $p < 0.01$  level

\*\*\*: Significant at  $p < 0.001$  level

Note: Results of McNemar’s tests found that the new school-aged and adolescents participants in this experiment, like those in earlier studies and as predicted if participants used Bayesian inference, were significantly less likely to say that E ( $M = 0.31$ ,  $SE = 0.01$ ) was a blicket than D ( $M = 0.48$ ,  $SE = 0.01$ ;  $p = 0.008$ ) in the conjunctive condition.

**Table S6: Model comparisons for intervention choices**

Models compared:	Residual df	Residual deviance	df	Deviance	P
M <sub>1</sub> : Null model	421	486.32			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition X Age group	407	367.18	14	125.21	< 0.001***
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Age group	417	484.37			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition X Age group	407	367.18	10	117.19	< 0.001***
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition	419	398.72			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition X Age group	407	367.18	12	31.53	0.001**
M <sub>1</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition + Age group	415	388.63			
M <sub>2</sub> : D judgment ~ Condition X Age group	407	367.18	8	21.44	0.006**

\*: Significant at  $p < 0.05$  level

\*\*: Significant at  $p < 0.01$  level

\*\*\*: Significant at  $p < 0.001$  level

## Experiment 2:

**Materials and procedure:** The dolls used for 4 year olds, 6 year olds, 9-11 year olds and 12-14 year olds were named Sally, Josie and Mary. A trampoline, bicycle, and a diving-board were used as the toys that the dolls interacted with for these age ranges. Adults in the online version were presented with videos of dolls named Sally or Bobby interacting with a bicycle and a skateboard according to the condition, to which they were assigned. The order in which the dolls played, as well as the names of the dolls, and the types of toys they played with were counterbalanced between subjects.

If the children responded to the prompt for an explanation of the doll’s behavior with an irrelevant answer (i.e. “I don’t know”) the experimenter gave them a forced choice question such as, “Do you think it’s because the [toy] was [safe/dangerous] to play on or because [the doll] is the type of person who [gets scared/is brave]?” Adults in the online version were simply asked to provide an open response answer to the question prompt: “Why did [the doll] [play/not play] on the [toy]?” Data from 34 adults were excluded from the analyses because they provided irrelevant explanations for the dolls’ behavior.

**Table S7: Descriptive statistics, Experiment 2**

Age group	Mean age (SD)	N (Number female)
4 year olds	4.51 (0.31)	77 (33)
6 year olds	6.47 (0.37)	82 (39)
9-11 year olds	10.27 (0.91)	90 (41)
12-14 year olds	13.11 (0.94)	86 (35)
Adults	34.74 (11.3)	208 (89)

**Table S8: Gender by condition, Experiment 2**

	4yos	4yos_Fem	6yos	6yos_Fem	10yos	10yos_Fem	13yos	13yos_Fem	Adults	Adults_Fem
<b>Person</b>	24	11	24	11	30	15	29	13	73	40
<b>Control</b>	24	12	32	17	30	14	29	11	65	24
<b>Situation</b>	24	14	24	9	30	12	27	11	68	25

**Table S9: Example responses to the explanation prompt by category**

<b>Person attributions:</b>	<b>Interaction attributions:</b>	<b>Situation attributions:</b>	<b>Irrelevant responses:</b>
"She's confident in her bicycle riding ability."	"She didn't get injured. It was available."	"Because its [toy is] too high."	"I don't know."
"Because she might be more brave than the other one."	"Because its [toy is] her favorite color."	"Because her friend played."	"She was scared. The video does not explicitly say why she was scared, or I just did not get it."
"She enjoys swimming."	"It's fun and she's been on it before."	"Nothing was under the trampoline."	"The experimenter was making her move/not move."
"Maybe she's afraid of heights."	"Because it [toy] was maybe too high and she was catastrophizing."	"The trampoline doesn't have any edges."	"There's not enough information to tell."
"She's afraid of trying new things because she had a bad experience of getting hurt."	"Because it didn't have training wheels and she never rode a bike before."	"It's not safe"	"No clue"
"She's afraid of heights."	"Because she wanted to do what her friends were doing and the diving board was too shallow."	"Because its [toy is] too high."	No answer

**Table S10: Number of participants (N) and explanation types in each age group by condition.**

<b>Condition (age group)</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Situation</b>	<b>Interaction</b>	<b>Forced choice</b>
Person (4-year-olds)	24	37	8	3	15
Control (4-year-olds)	29	28	22	8	17
Situation (4-year-olds)	24	14	27	7	25
Person (6-year-olds)	24	42	7	1	2
Control (6-year-olds)	32	49	12	3	6
Situation (6-year-olds)	24	25	19	4	6
Person (9-11-year-olds)	30	51	4	5	14
Control (9-11-year-olds)	30	40	13	7	8
Situation (9-11-year-olds)	30	24	33	3	8
Person (12-14-year-olds)	29	53	4	1	6
Control (12-14-year-olds)	29	50	6	2	3
Situation (12-14-year-olds)	28	17	27	0	4
Person (adults)	73	130	12	4	0
Control (adults)	65	100	20	10	0
Situation (adults)	68	75	46	15	0

**Table S11: Model comparison information for gender effects for Experiment 2.**

We compared statistical models of participant gender and experimenter gender in order to investigate the possibility of gender effects in our sample of older children and adolescents. Each model was compared to the null model and none of these comparisons reached statistical significance.

<b>Models compared:</b>	<b>Residual df</b>	<b>RSS</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>SS<sub>1</sub>-SS<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>F</b>	<b>P</b>
M <sub>1</sub> : Null model	174	93.79				
M <sub>2</sub> : Att. Score ~ participant gender	173	93.74	1	0.054	0.101	= .751
M <sub>1</sub> : Att. Score ~ Null model	174	93.79				
M <sub>2</sub> : Att. Score ~ experimenter gender	173	93.52	1	0.267	0.495	= .483
M <sub>1</sub> : Att. Score ~ Null Model	174	93.79				
M <sub>2</sub> : Att. Score ~ participant gender X experimenter gender	171	92.89	3	0.903	0.554	= .645

**Table S12: Model comparison information for Experiment 2- Situation score by age and condition**

<b>Models compared:</b>	<b>Residual df</b>	<b>RSS</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>SS<sub>1</sub>-SS<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>F</b>	<b>P</b>
M <sub>1</sub> : Null model	539	284.73				
M <sub>2</sub> : Att. Score ~ gender	538	284.19	1	0.541	1.024	= .312
M <sub>1</sub> : Att. Score ~ Null model	539	284.73				
M <sub>2</sub> : Att. Score ~ age group	535	271.96	4	12.771	6.281	< .001***
M <sub>1</sub> : Att. Score ~ age group	535	271.96				
M <sub>2</sub> : Att. Score ~ condition + age group	533	211.87	2	60.087	75.58	< .001***
M <sub>1</sub> : Att. Score ~ condition + age group	533	211.87				
M <sub>2</sub> : Att. Score ~ condition X age group	525	201.72	8	10.156	3.304	< .001***

\*: Significant at p < 0.05 level

\*\*: Significant at p < 0.01 level

\*\*\*: Significant at p < 0.001 level