BACKGROUND MOTION EVENTS

- **Goal paths in language**
  - Goal path: Describes a trajectory of movement from the point of origin to the goal point (e.g., The duck walked to the tree).
  - Source path: Specifies the path from the goal point to the point of origin (e.g., The duck walked from the box).
- **Goal paths in semantic structure**
  - Goal paths are expressed more often in language than source paths (Lakusta & Landau, 2007).

PAST FINDINGS

- **On** refers to “x” or “y” where “x” is juxtaposed or contiguous with “y” on a one-dimensional line or two-dimensional surface (Biel et al., 2001).
- **In** refers to the relationship of enclosure, with the inclusion of “x” in “y” (Richards & Coventry, 2005).
- **To** implies motion along a physical path until the trajector reaches a physical goal (Smith, 2009).
- **Into** means motion within a container or enclosure (e.g., The duck walked into the box).
- **Onto** means motion over a location (e.g., The duck walked onto the box).

EXPERIMENT 2 Intermodal Preferential Looking Paradigm

**Participants:** 18-month-olds

**Design:** Each condition contained four blocks, each block tested comprehension on the following prepositions: (into, to, next to, on).

**Dependent Variable:** Infants looking directions and lengths of looks were coded and used as a measure of prepositional comprehension.

RESULTS

- **Goal divided by Goal plus Source:**
  - Examples: The mouse ran into the room.

SUMMARY

- Infants comprehend “on” when it refers to a motion event. Consistency between MCDI, IPLP, and Wordbank.
- Infants do not comprehend “into” when it refers to a motion event. Consistency between MCDI and IPLP.
- Infants show low comprehension of “into” because it is suggested that “into” is a more complex spatial term.

FUTURE QUESTIONS

- Do parents accurately estimate children’s comprehension of complex spatial terms such as “onto”?
- If “to” was defined as a spatial term (e.g., the duck walked to the tree), would parents more accurately estimate children’s comprehension of “to” compared to IPLP findings?
- Do children under 18 months comprehend “on” when it refers to a dynamic motion event?