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### Abstract

Habituation and novelty paradigms have been used for more than half a century to study perceptual and mnemonic processes in the human infant. In the first part of this chapter we provide a brief history and description of the different types of habituation and novelty procedures, critique the major theories and models of infant habituation and novelty preferences, and summarize major developmental trends and debates. In the second part of the chapter we review more recent advances in our understanding of habituation and novelty preferences using the methods of neuroscience that are now available, and provide a critical review of the debate over what kind of memory supports infant performance in these tasks.