

NDAU Task Information

Facial Emotion Recognition

What is facial emotion recognition?

Emotions are associated with specific emotional expressions. Facial emotion recognition refers to the ability to accurately identify these facial expressions, which develops and improves throughout childhood.

Why is facial emotion recognition important?

Difficulties in identifying facial expressions can have negative consequences on understanding how others are feeling, which can interfere with the ability to engage in appropriate social behaviour and to maintain friendships.

How do we measure the ability to recognise facial emotion?

We measure each child's ability to recognise facial emotion through the Facial Emotion Recognition task.

The child is presented with images of male and female faces, either displaying expressions of happiness, sadness, fear, anger or no emotion. The child is asked to identify how that person is feeling. The intensity of the facial expression also varies from low intensity to high intensity.

It is important to verify where the child is looking when observing faces, as the most important emotional information is conveyed from the eye and mouth region. We therefore use eye-tracking techniques to examine where the child is looking when they are identifying facial expressions.