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978-0-521-18137-2 - Imitation in Infancy  
Edited by Jacqueline Nadel and George Butterworth  
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## Imitation in Infancy

This is the first book to bring together the extensive modern evidence for innate imitation in babies. Contemporary research has shown imitation to be a natural mechanism of learning and communication which deserves to be at centre stage in developmental psychology. Yet, the very possibility of imitation in newborn humans has had a controversial history. Defining imitation has proved to be far from straightforward, and scientific evidence for its existence in neonates is only now becoming accepted, despite more than a century of inquiry. In this book, some of the world's foremost researchers on imitation and intellectual development review evidence for imitation in newborn babies. They discuss the development of imitation in infancy, in both normal and atypical populations and in comparison with other primate species, stressing the fundamental importance of imitation in human development, as a foundation of communication and a precursor to symbolic processes.

JACQUELINE NADEL is Research Director in the Laboratoire de Psychobiologie du Développement, at the CNRS, Paris. She has published widely on imitation and communication in infants and is the editor of the French journal *ENFANCE*.

GEORGE BUTTERWORTH is Professor of Psychology in the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences at the University of Sussex, England. His research has spanned perception and cognitive development in infancy and early childhood, including recent extensive studies on manual pointing in babies. He is currently editor of the journal *Developmental Science* and is General Editor of the book series *Cambridge Studies in Cognitive and Perceptual Development*.

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## Notes on contributors

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DR KIM A. BARD is at the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

PROFESSOR GEORGE BUTTERWORTH is at the Psychology Department in the School of Cognitive and Computing Sciences, University of Sussex, England

DR GERALDO A. FIAMENGI JR. is at the Instituto de Psicologia, PUC-Campinas, Brazil

DR CAROLINE GUÉRINI is at the Laboratoire Psycho-Biologie du Développement, Paris, France

PROFESSOR MIKAEL HEIMANN is at the Department of Special Education and Department of Psychology, Göteborg University, Sweden

THEANO KOKKINAKI is at the Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

PROFESSOR GIANNIS KUGIUMUTZAKIS is in the Department of Psychology, University of Crete, Greece

PROFESSOR ANDREW N. MELTZOFF is Head of Developmental Psychology at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

M. KEITH MOORE is a Research Scientist at the Center on Human Development and Disability, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

DR JACQUELINE NADEL is Research Director at the Laboratoire de Psycho-Biologie du Développement, CNRS, Paris, France

ANN PEZÉ is at the Laboratoire de Psycho-Biologie du Développement, CNRS, Paris, France

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x Notes on contributors

CHRISTINE RIVET is at the Foyer pour Adultes Sourds-Aveugles, La Varenne, APSA, Poitiers, France

DR SALLY J. ROGERS is at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado, USA

DR CONNIE L. RUSSELL is at the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

EMERITUS PROFESSOR COLWYN TREVARTHEN is at the Department of Child Psychology and Psychobiology at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland

DR EVA ULLSTADIUS is at the Department of Education and Department of Psychology, Göteborg University, Sweden

The late PROFESSOR INA Č. UŽGIRIS was with the Department of Psychology at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA

It was with great regret that we learned of the death of Ina Užgiris, just before this book reached completion. We thank Vytautas I. Užgiris for his assistance with the proofs.

*Jacqueline Nadel and George Butterworth*  
*September 1998*