

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Child Development

edited by

Marc H. Bornstein

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human  
Development, Bethesda*

*Institute for Fiscal Studies, London*

*UNICEF, New York City*

## CHILDREN'S EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY AND EVENT MEMORY

Martha E. Arterberry  
*Colby College*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-12437-9 — Children's Eyewitness Testimony and Event Memory  
Martha E. Arterberry  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009124379](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009124379)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781009128216

© Martha E. Arterberry 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2022

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-009-12437-9 Paperback  
ISSN 2632-9948 (online)  
ISSN 2632-993X (print)

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## Children's Eyewitness Testimony and Event Memory

Elements in Child Development

DOI: 10.1017/9781009128216  
First published online: June 2022

Martha E. Arterberry  
*Colby College*

**Author for correspondence:** Martha E. Arterberry, [Martha.Arterberry@colby.edu](mailto:Martha.Arterberry@colby.edu)

**Abstract:** This Element addresses the factors that influence children's accuracy in reporting on events and draws implications for children's ability to serve as reliable eyewitnesses. The following topics are covered: short- and long-term memory for event details; memory for stressful events; memory for the temporal order of events; memory for the spatial location of events; the ways poorly worded questions or intervening events interfere with memory; and individual differences in language development, understanding right from wrong and emotions, and cognitive processes. In addition, this Element considers how potential jurors perceive children as eyewitnesses and how the findings of the research on children's event memory inform best practices for interviewing children.

This Element also has a video abstract: [www.cambridge.org/ChildDevelopment\\_Arterberry\\_abstract](http://www.cambridge.org/ChildDevelopment_Arterberry_abstract)

**Keywords:** children's eyewitness testimony, event memory, suggestibility, cognitive development, jurors' perceptions

© Martha E. Arterberry 2022

ISBNs: 9781009124379 (PB), 9781009128216 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2632-9948 (online), 2632-993X (print)

## Contents

Preface	1
1 Introduction	1
2 Many Factors and One Comprehensive Study	6
3 Stressful Events	13
4 Memory for When and Where	16
5 Reporting on Events Under Nonideal Conditions	23
6 Individual Differences	31
7 Adults' Perceptions of Child Eyewitnesses	40
8 Applications	47
9 Conclusion	50
References	54