We know that our minds and brains change as we grow from children to adults, but few studies have looked at whether children use the same brain regions as adults when mentalizing or interacting with others. During middle childhood, children start to interact in more complex ways. They spend more time with friends and classmates and can think about more complicated mental states. Therefore, we decided to focus on middle childhood for our study of how the brain works during mentalizing and social interaction.

How Did We Test Our Questions? Our study aimed to answer three questions about the brain: Our sense that our perception of our own minds is direct may be analogous to many cases where expertise provides an illusion of direct perception. These empirical findings have important implications for debates about the foundations of cognitive science.

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