



## Goals and designs: Young children's reasoning about artifact function

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Humans are prolific in making and using a diverse and sophisticated array of artifacts. In consequence, even children within “technologically sparse” cultures grow up in environments significantly populated by intentionally designed objects. How do young children reason about these ubiquitous features of their everyday lives? In this talk, I will discuss the development of children's artifact cognition and consider aspects that, from early on, might distinguish it from that of non-human tool-using primates. I will also consider the possible source of children's competencies and whether they derive from cognitive adaptations specific to tool use or more general strengths in physical reasoning, intentional explanation and social learning. Broader explanatory consequences of children's sensitivity to artifact function and design will also be discussed.