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The Relationship Between Focused Attention and Object Permanence in Infants with Motor Delays

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Presenter Information

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The Relationship Between Focused Attention and Object Permanence in Infants with Motor Delays

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ABSTRACT:

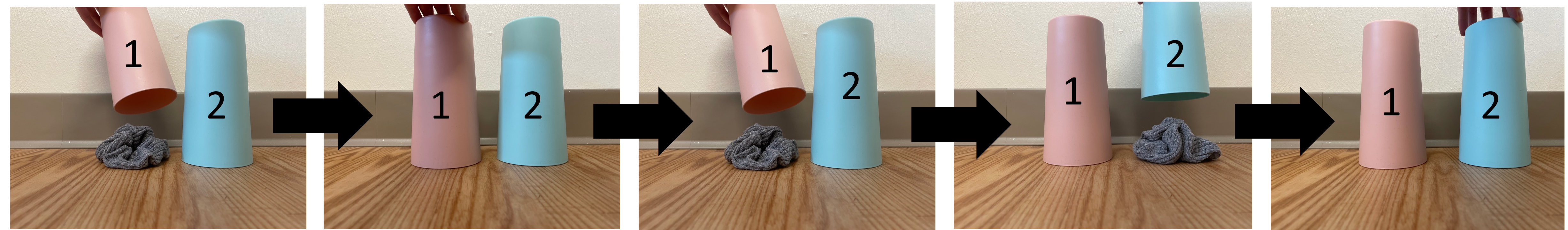
- Object Permanence (OP) and Focused Attention (FA) are two cognitive skills developed in early infancy
- The relationship between the two in infants with motor delays is poorly understood
- The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between FA in early independent sitting and OP one year later in infants with motor delays

METHODS:

- 15 infants aged 8-16 months old
- Given a series of 8 object permanence tasks
- Scored for total object permanence at 12 months
- Scored for global focused attention at 1.5 months for two OP tasks

OP TASKS SCORED FOR FA:

1. Displacement



2. Switch



SCORING:

Total OP

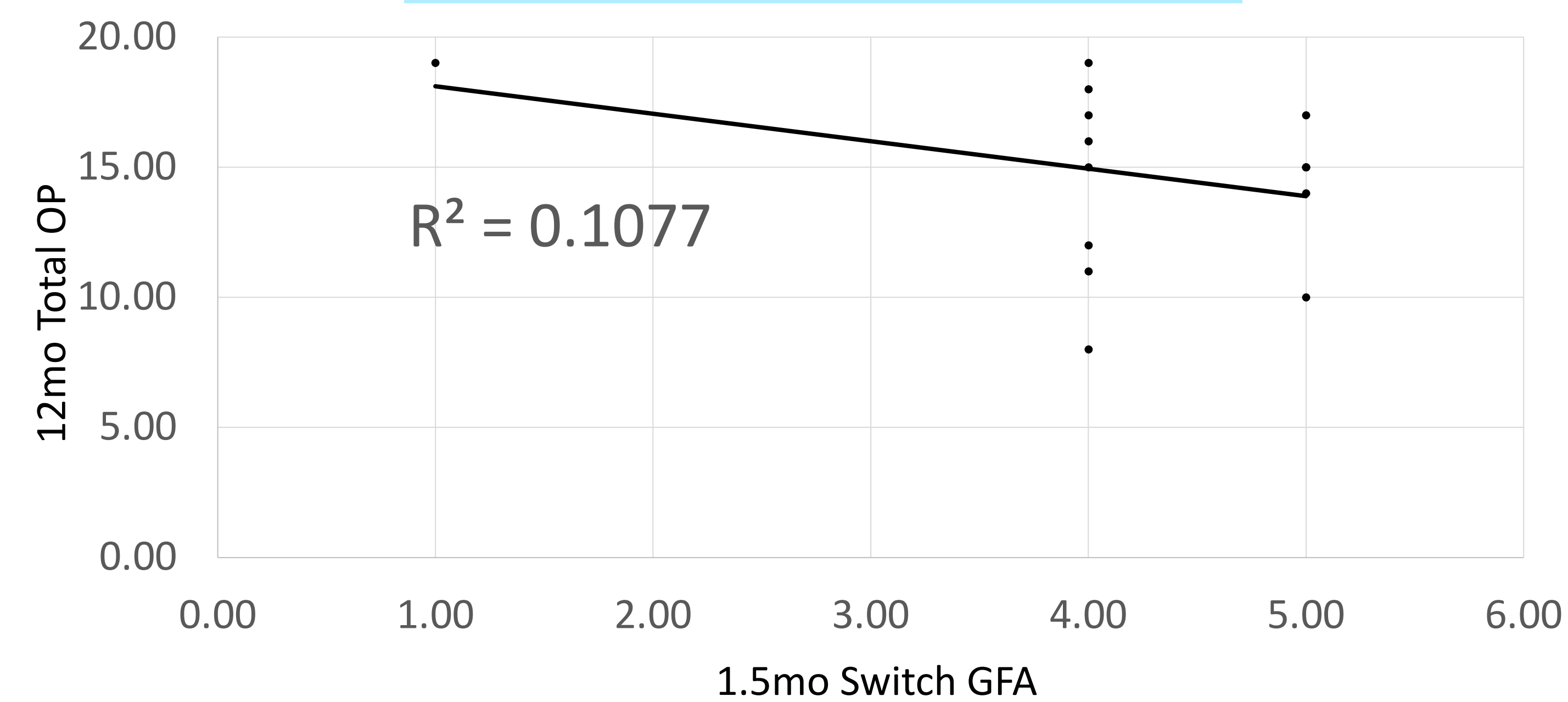
Fail: Child could not find hidden object	0
Partial: Child demonstrated awareness of object location without finding it	1
Success: Child found hidden object	2

GFA

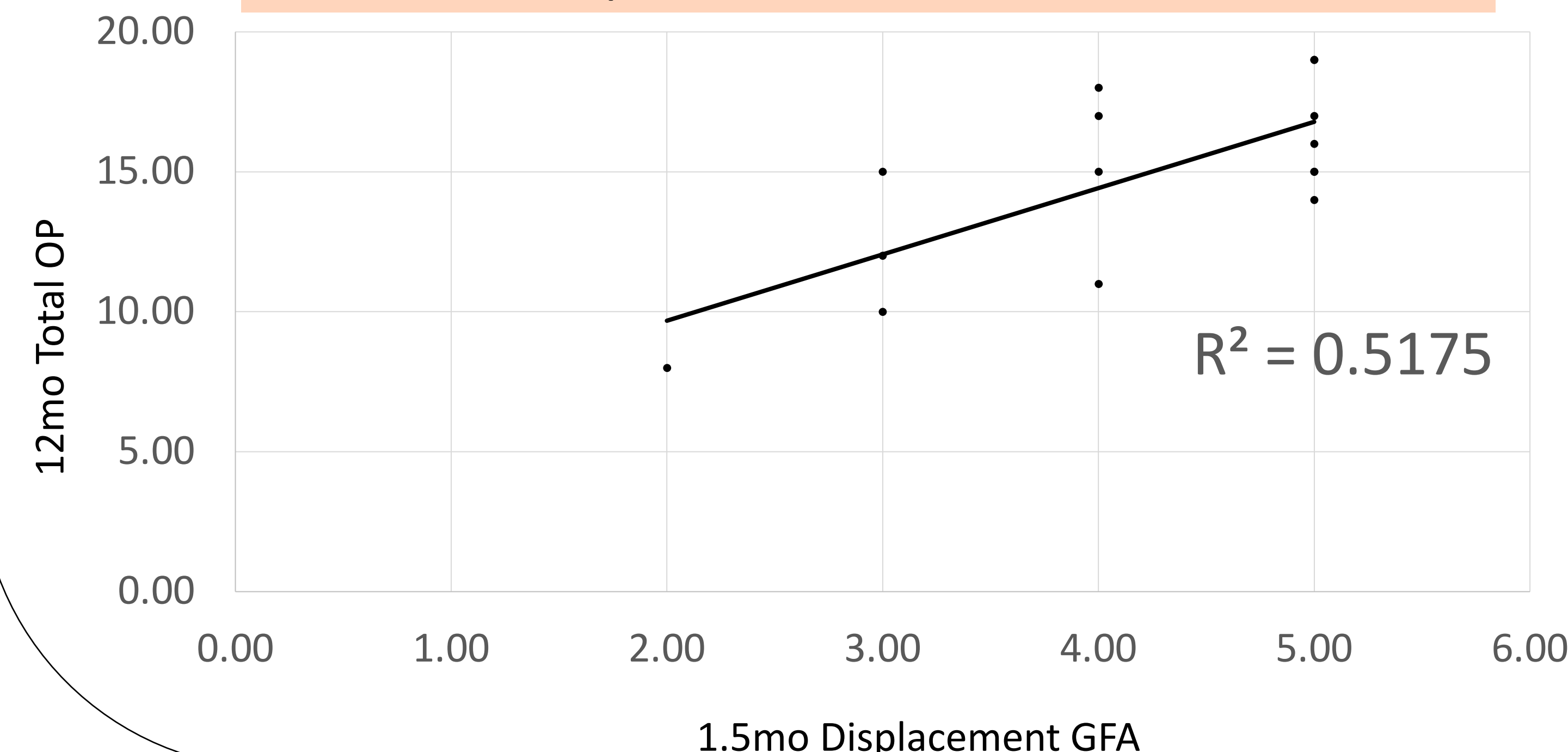
1	2	3	4	5
Not focused; never looks at objects	Hardly focused but looks at objects a few times	Half focused on objects but looks away several times	Mostly focused on objects but looks away a few times	Focused on objects the whole time; doesn't look away

RESULTS:

1.5mo Switch FA vs. 12mo Total OP



1.5mo Displacement FA vs. 12mo Total OP



CONCLUSION:

- Focused attention early in development contributes to building cognitive constructs, such as object permanence, in infants with motor delays
- The higher correlation between displacement FA and future OP highlights the important of gaze and eye tracking in early infancy

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