A dissociation between face perception and face memory in adults, but not children, with developmental prosopagnosia

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DEVELOPMENTAL PROSOPAGNOSIA (DP) is defined by severe face recognition difficulties resulting from the failure to develop the necessary visual mechanisms for processing faces. Theories of face processing predict that impaired face recognition can result from deficits of face perception, face memory, or both.

**PARTICIPANTS**

**Children:**
- N=8, 5-12-years-old (M=8.5 years, SD=2.6) recruited through faceblind.org.
- Parents provided anecdotal reports of face recognition difficulties in daily life.
- Normal or corrected-to-normal vision, normal or above average IQ, no autism spectrum disorders.

**Adults:**
- N=16, 20-46-years-old (M=31.5, SD=7.4) recruited through faceblind.org.
- Provided anecdotal reports of face recognition difficulties in daily life.
- All had normal or corrected-to-normal vision, normal or above average IQ, no autism spectrum disorders.

**RESULTS**

- Results from adults indicate that face perception and face memory are dissociable in DP, while the results from children provide no evidence for this division.
- Our findings raise the possibility that DP is qualitatively different in childhood versus adulthood.
- Face perception may recover with age and/or face memory impairments may be difficult to detect in children who have normal face perception.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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