Motor Learning

Aries Beck

Brief: Aries’ research was inspired by her continued passion for the brain. Aries presented her experiment at Vanderbilt Brain Blast to help teach young drivers that it is unsafe to text while driving, because the brain is incapable of performing such complex tasks simultaneously.

Abstract

Our brain does not have enough power to text while driving.

Hypothesis

If you text while you drive you might have an accident. You could damage your brain.

Introduction

Motor Learning is about learning new movements such as walking, jumping, texting and driving. We can learn to do these very well but we can”t do more than one very well at the same time.
Materials

timer, electronic maze, and a cell phone

Methods

We asked participants to practice going through an electronic maze 3x and we timed them. If they crashed there was a buzz sound then they had to start over.

Then we asked them to do it again while sending this text message: "Please get bagels, candy and donuts.

and we timed them.

Results

Without texting, people went further through the maze but when they were texting they crashed faster and some times they stopped moving through the maze.
Acknowledgements: Aries would like to thank her teacher, her mom and G.G., and her scientist, Dr. Benoist.

About the Author: Aries is a third-grade student at Hattie Cotton STEM-Magnet Elementary School, and this is the second year that she has published in Budding Scientist and attended Brain Blast, an event put on by Vanderbilt University in recognition of Brain Awareness Week.