

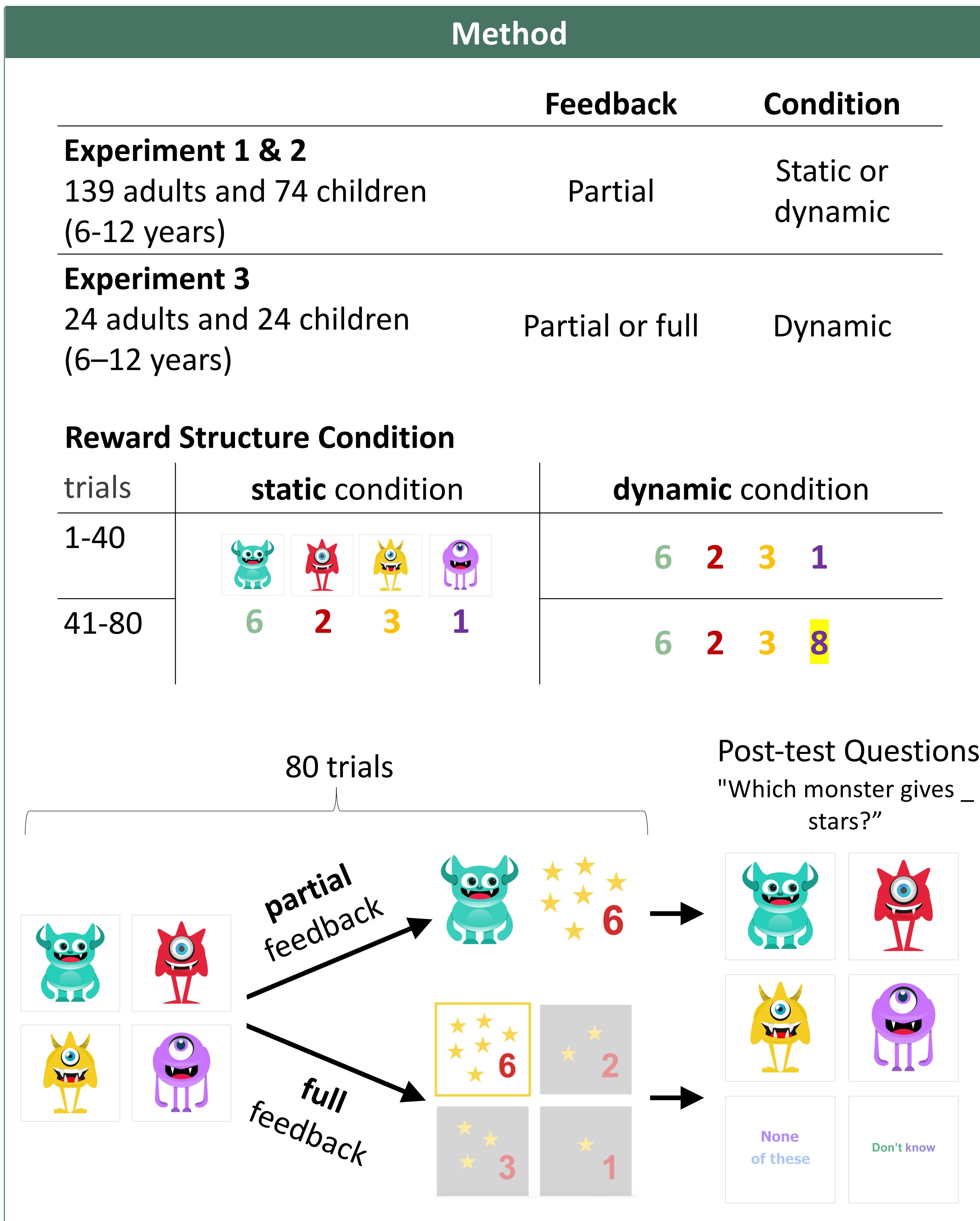
# Expecting the unexpected: Children's over-exploration facilitates adaptation to a changing world

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- Children exhibit a tendency to persistently explore suboptimal options, rather than exploit optimal options.
- This 'over-exploration', although seemingly unnecessary, is systematic and non-random (e.g., Blanco & Sloutsky, 2019; Schulz, Wu, Ruggeri, & Meder, 2019).

So **why** do children over-explore?  
1) When could it be adaptive? 2) What might it be driven by?



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Children's over-exploration is **advantageous** in a **changing environment**, and persists even when there is **no apparent need** for information-seeking.

**Results: Exp. 1 & 2**  
Over-exploration helps children discover changes that adults miss when the environment is dynamic.

