



# Attention networks in normally developing preschoolers (APERITIF)

**Keywords:** attention, resting-state, fMRI, cognitive development

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**Start/ End date:** as soon as possible – 12/2024 (end of data acquisition)

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## Research question / Hypotheses

Attention plays an important role in perception and information processing. Different aspects of attention develop from birth throughout early adulthood. The development at the behavioral level is represented by the development of functional networks in the brain.

### Research question:

Can we separate the different aspects of attention ('Alerting', 'Orienting', and 'Executive Control') on a neuronal level already in preschoolers? Is performance in an attention task associated with the functional network structure in the brain?

## Research methods

In this study, 30 healthy, normally developing children (age 5.5-6.5) will participate. Behavioral data on neurocognitive development (Kaufmann Assessment Battery for Children) and attention (Attention Network Test for Interaction) will be assessed. Furthermore, all children will undergo functional MRI measurements at the Medical University of Vienna.

## Requested skills

- High motivation and reliability
- Autonomous and responsible working style
- Interest in working with preschool-aged children
- Interest in functional MRI acquisition
- Interest in cognitive assessment
- Excellent German language skills