This dataset contains 2 files:

1. “Data\_Main study”
2. “Data\_Pilot study”

from the project ES/K008625/1.

Research based on these data has been published as Reindl, E., Apperly, I. A., Beck, S. R., & Tennie, C. (2017). Young children copy cumulative technological design in the absence of action information. *Scientific Reports*.

**Description of the files:**

1. “Data\_Main study”

Contains the data for the main study presented in the above-mentioned paper. The main study was conducted approximately one year after the pilot study.

The datafile contains data from 34 children between 4 and 6 years of age collected in 2014. Children were assigned to one of two conditions (baseline, action+endstate demonstration (=full demonstration)). Children were given 70g of plasticine and 30 sticks and were asked to build something as tall as possible. Children in the demonstration conditions were additionally provided with social information. Building time was 6 min.

Variables are:

* Year of birth
* Date of testing
* Age in months
* Sex
* Condition (baseline, action+endstate demonstration)
* Tower height in cm (i.e., of tower that was standing at the end of the testing session)
* Tripod built at any stage throughout building? (yes/no)

2. “Data\_Pilot study”

Contains the data for the pilot study described in the supplementary material of the above-mentioned paper. The pilot study was conducted approximately one year before the main study.

The datafile contains data on 75 children between 4 and 6 years of age collected in 2015 (data from 73 of these children were analysed in the study; data from 2 children were excluded because these children answered the control question wrongly). Children were assigned to one of three conditions (baseline, endstate demonstration, action+endstate demonstration (=full demonstration)). Children were given 70g of plasticine and 30 sticks and were asked to build something as tall as possible. Children in the demonstration conditions were additionally provided with social information. Building time was 6 min.

Variables are:

* Year of birth
* Date of testing
* Age in months
* Sex
* Ethnicity
* Condition (baseline, endstate demonstration, action+endstate demonstration)
* Height of final tower in cm (i.e., of tower that was standing at the end of the testing session)
* Shape of final tower
* Is the final tower also the tower with the maximum height reached (yes/no)
* Height of tower with maximum height
* Shape of tower with maximum height
* End time of trial (in min, max. 6)
* Control question answered correctly? (yes/no)
* Tripod built at any stage throughout building? (yes/no)
* maximum height in stick levels reached (at any time during building)