to recognize sadness than did children who were not victims of abuse. This finding makes an important point about facial recognition of anger. Even though this ability seems to have an innate basis, it is also influenced by learning. Children who are abused develop a highly attuned capacity to recognize anger, either because they have seen it all too frequently or because their ability to correctly identify anger helps them avoid further abuse. At the same time, they seem to develop a collateral inability to recognize sadness, perhaps because they are so vigilant for anger that they confuse these two negative emotions (see also Pollak, & Kistler, 2002; Pollak, Cicchetti, Hornung, & Reed, 2000).

D. Section Summary

In this section we have reviewed a variety of evidence suggesting that first impressions have an innate, perceptual basis. Beginning early in life, we prefer to look at attractive faces and believe that attractive people possess culturally valued qualities. We also assume that people with babyish facial features have childlike personalities. Finally, people all over the world are able to recognize facial expressions of emotion, and certain physical properties, such as circularity and angularity, convey emotional