

Stressful childhood environments may enhance cognitive functioning.

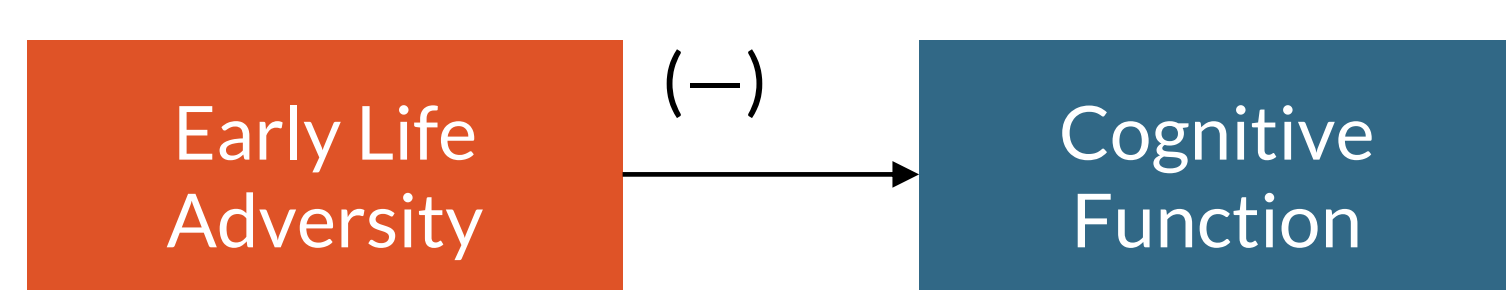
Can an unpredictable childhood environment enhance aspects of executive function and working memory?

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BACKGROUND

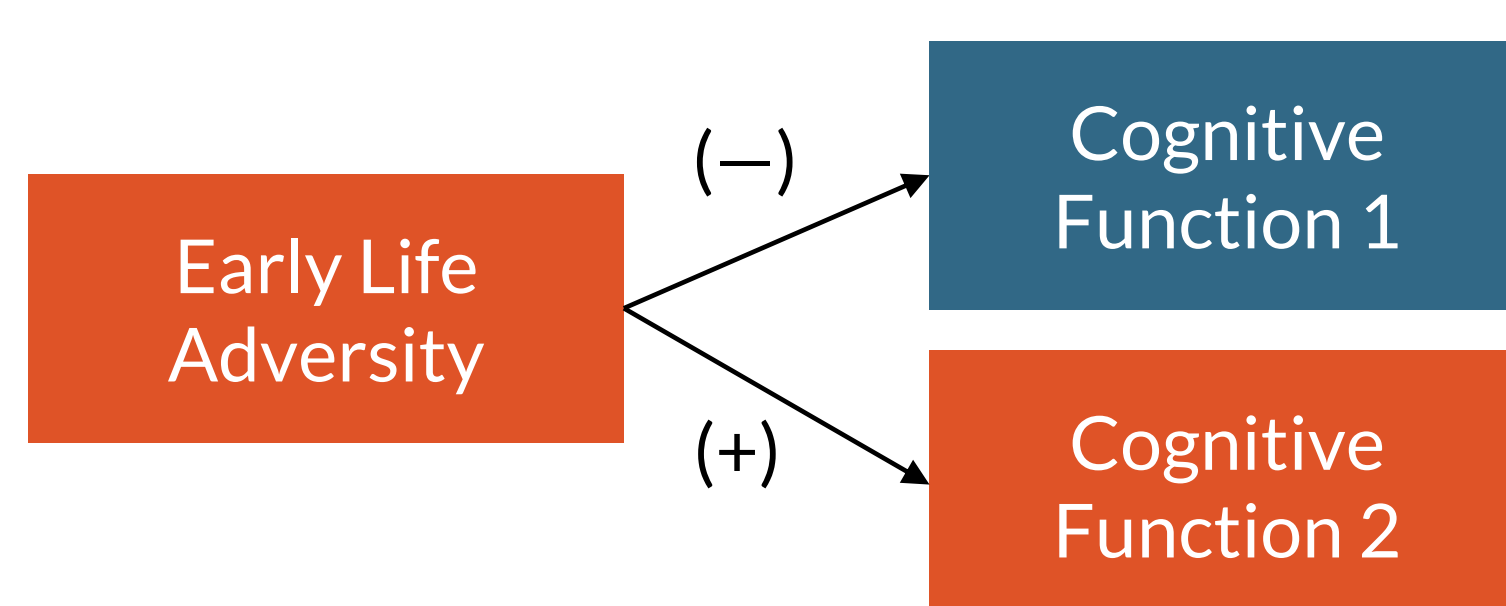
The Deficit Model

- Early adversity *impairs* cognition



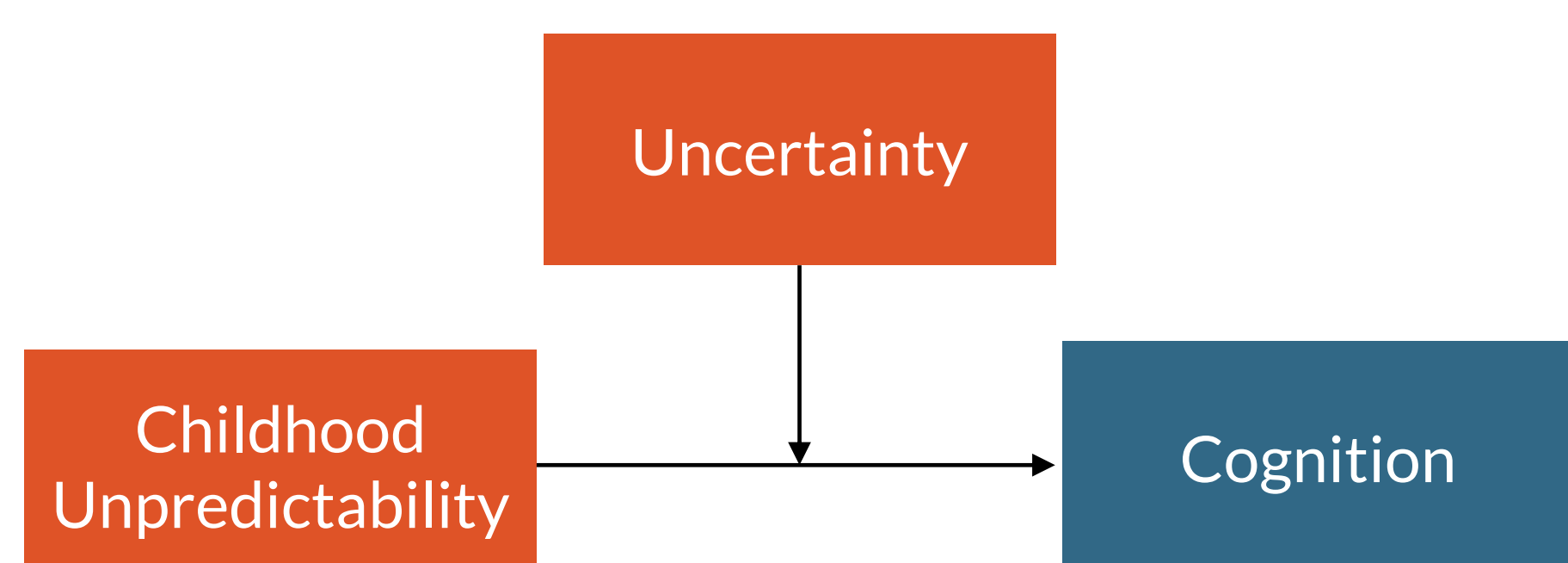
The Adaptation Model

- Early adversity *shapes* cognition
- Some are impaired, others could be *enhanced*



Sensitization

- Specialized abilities might be *sensitized* to manifest under particular conditions later in life.

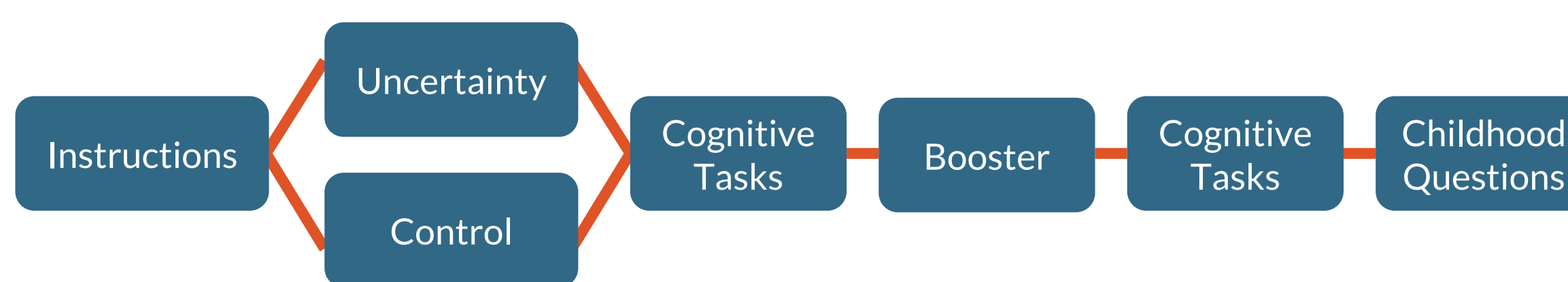


METHODS

Participants

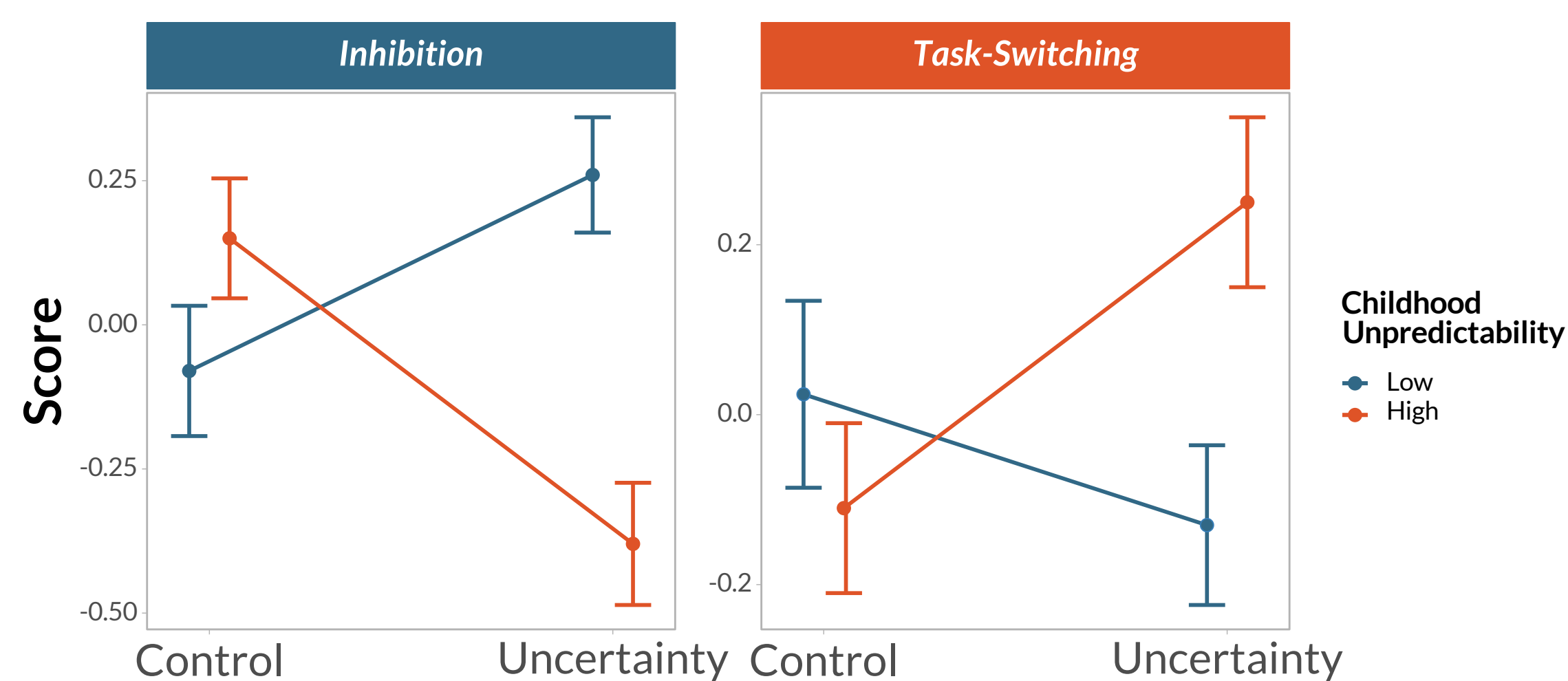
- Executive functions: 4 studies, N = 393
- Working Memory: 3 studies, N = 718

General Study Design

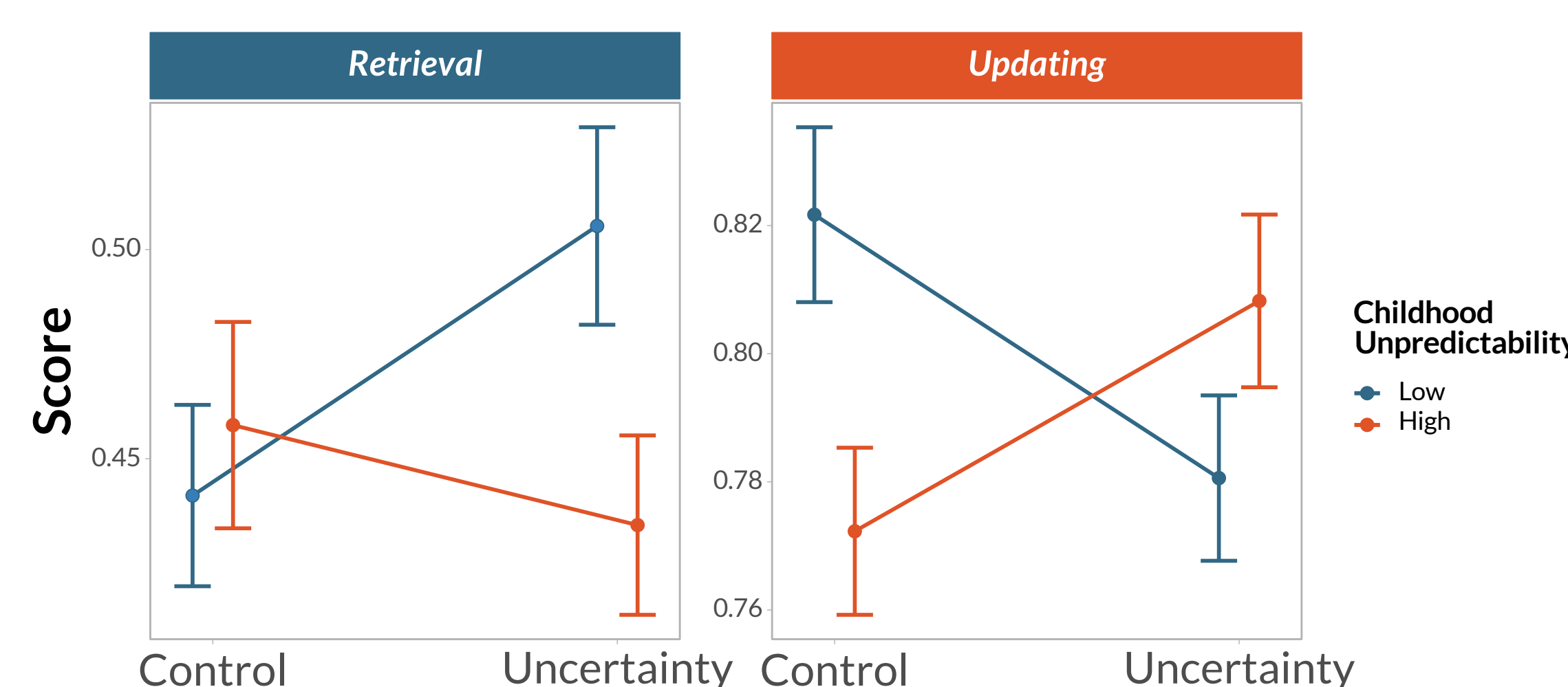


RESULTS

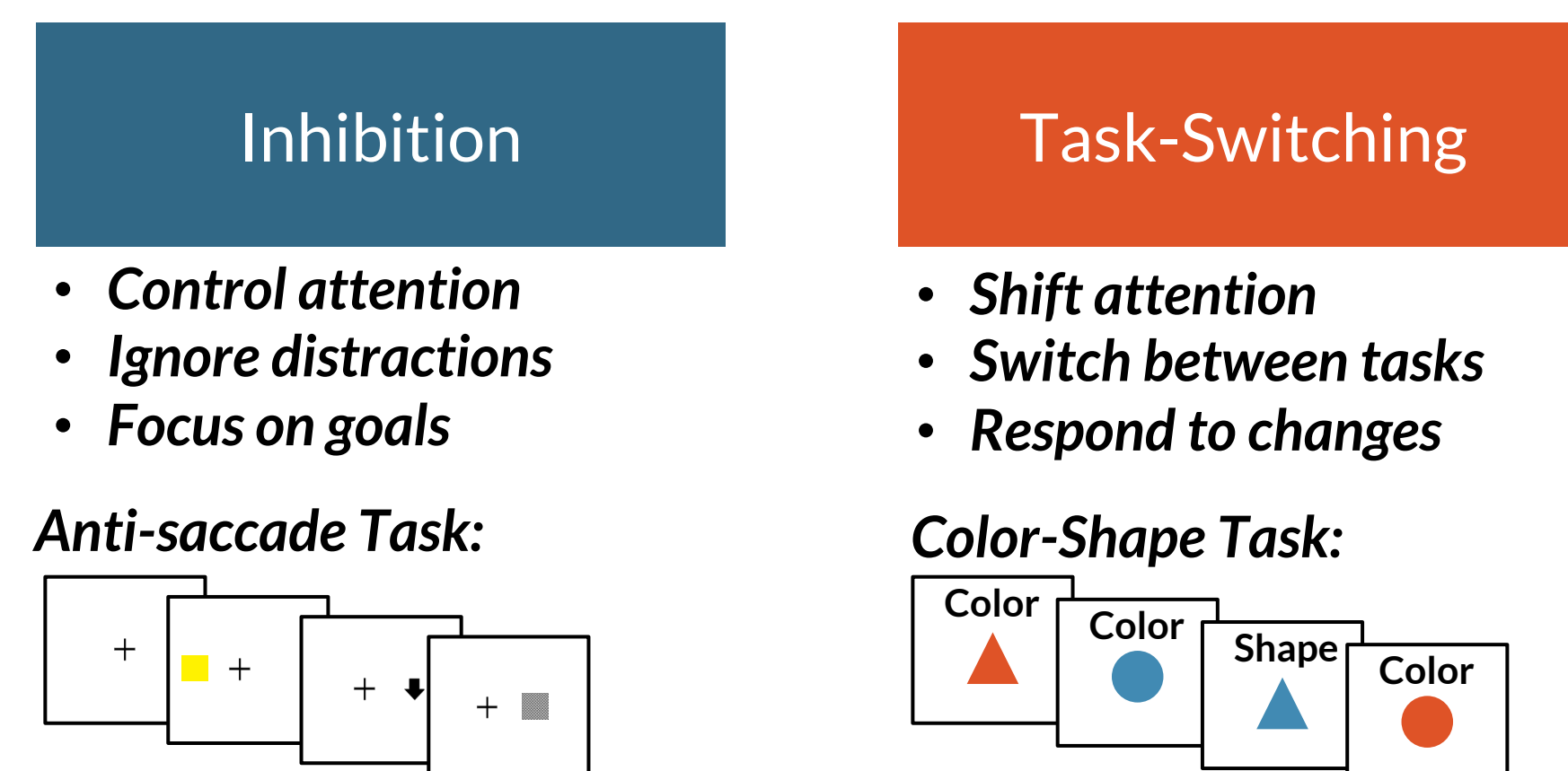
Unpredictability and Executive Functions



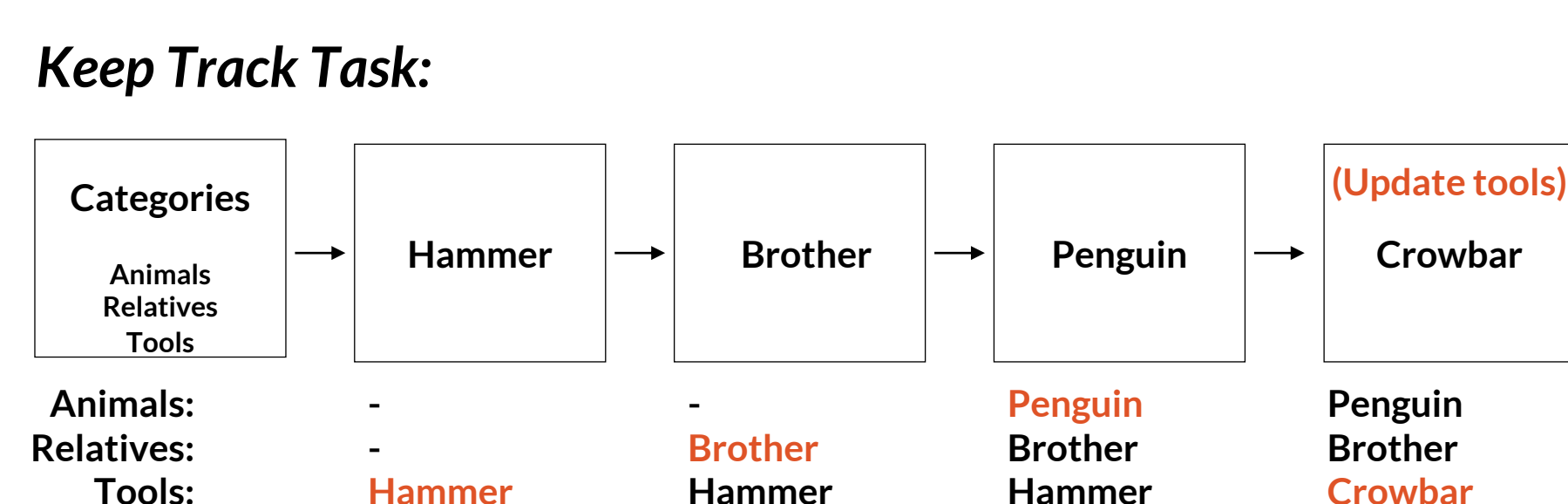
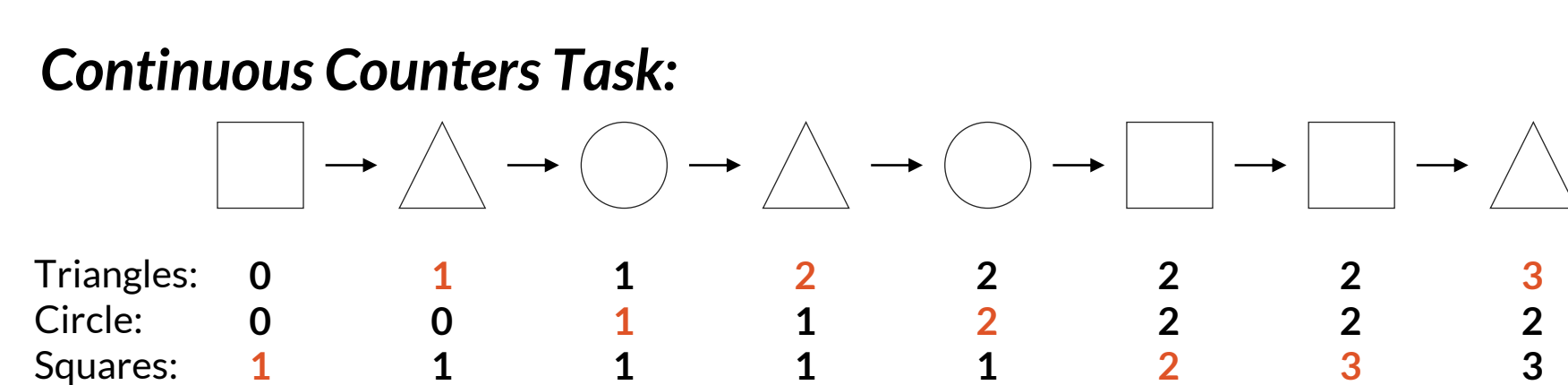
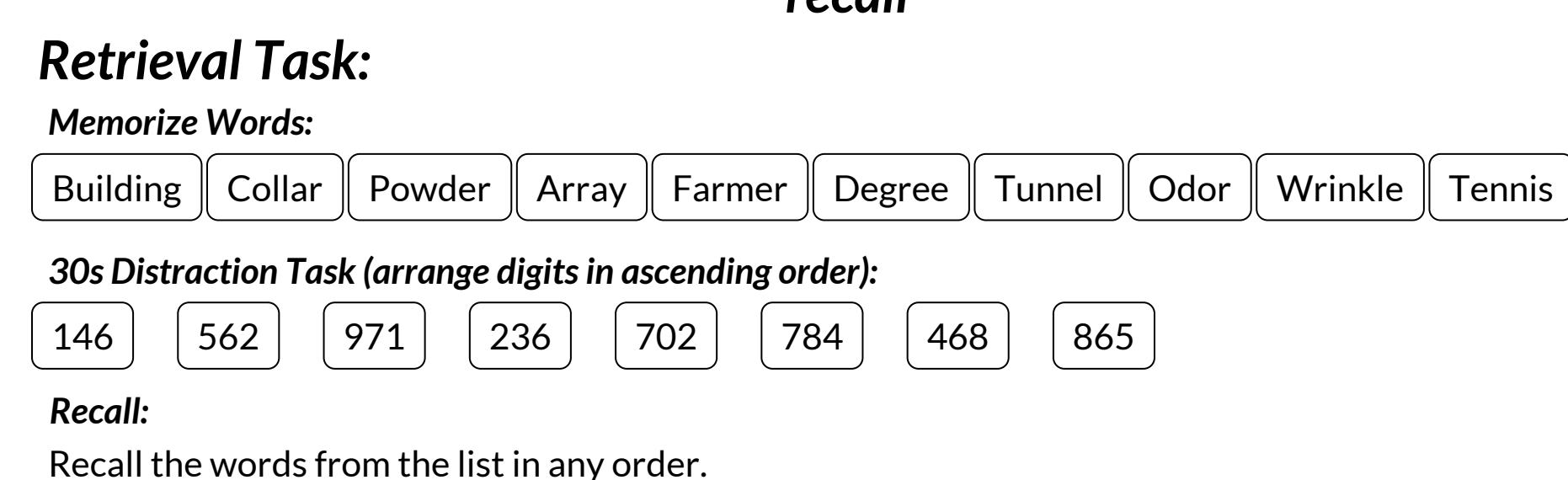
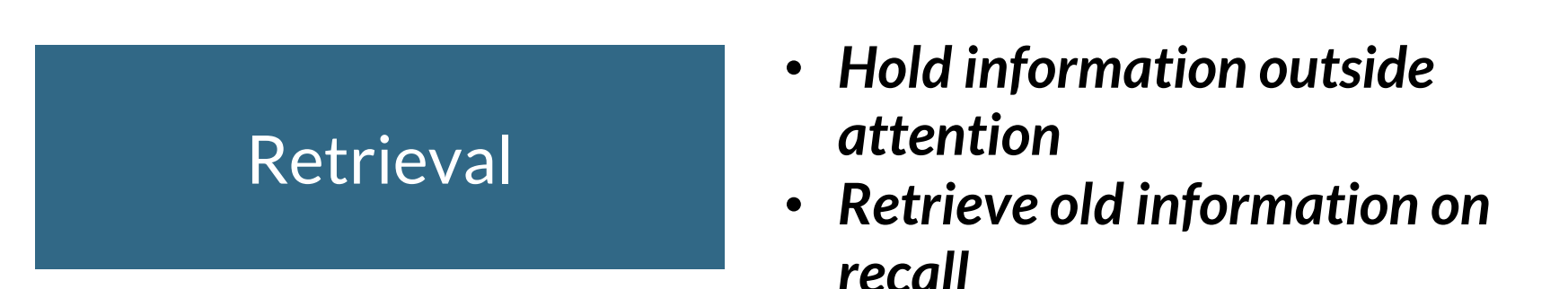
Unpredictability and Working Memory



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

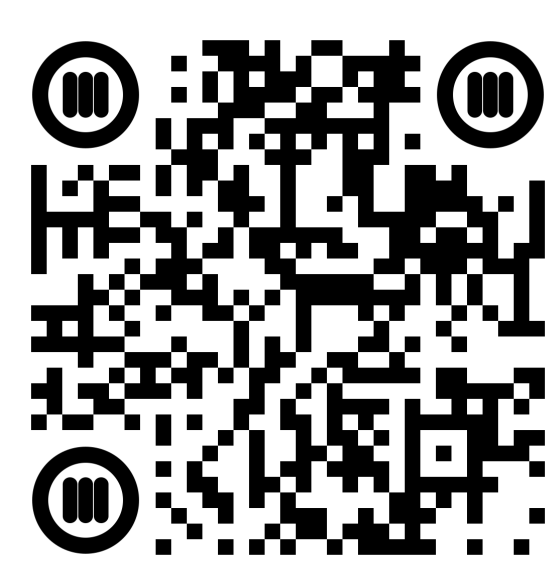


WORKING MEMORY



UNPREDICTABILITY

1. My family life was generally inconsistent and unpredictable from day-to-day.
2. My parent(s) frequently had arguments or fights with each other or other people in my childhood.
3. My parents had a difficult divorce or separation during this time.
4. People often moved in and out of my house on a pretty random basis.
5. When I woke up, I often didn't know what could happen in my house that day.
6. My family environment was often tense and "on edge".
7. Things were often chaotic in my house.
8. I had a hard time knowing what my parent(s) or other people in my house were going to say.



Attention shifting



Take a picture to download the full papers

Memory Updating

