Online Supplementary Material

This document contains the full story that children were told before beginning the memory task and the screens informing children how many points they’d collected (appearing at intervals throughout the main task).

**Story before the main memory task (to be read horizontally):**

Hi there.
My name is Zeng.

I am sad because my planet has been invaded by these evil aliens:
Can you see them?

They have been causing lots of trouble.
Will you help me zap them?

Oh no!
You are running low!

To zap the aliens, you need energy.
How much energy do you have?

You can earn energy points by playing some memory games.
Screens informing the child how many points they had collected:

3-item sequences
4-item sequences

Great job! You got lots of energy points!
Let’s get some more!
Remember, the more energy you collect, the more aliens you will be able to zap.

Look at all the energy you have collected so far!
Let’s collect some more!
Remember, the more energy you collect, the more aliens you will be able to zap.

Wow! That energy box is getting full!
Can you collect a little more?
Remember, the more energy you collect, the more aliens you will be able to zap.
Wow! The energy box is getting full!

Can you collect a little more?

Remember, the more energy you collect, the more aliens you will be able to eat.