

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH
CAROLINA
AT GREENSBORO**

Department of Psychology
PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402

(336) - 256 -0048
duck_lab@uncg.edu



UNCG
Inspire. Change.

Development and Understanding of Children's Knowledge

**Meet the DUCK
Lab**

Directors:

Dr. Janet Boseovski
Dr. Stuart Marcovitch

Lab Manager:

Ally Fischman, B.A.

Doctoral Candidate:

Candace Lassiter, M.A.

Master's Candidates:

Naomi Chatley, B.A.
Chelsea Hughes, B.A.

Honors Program:

Spencer Mijanovich

Research Assistants:

Angela Dyson
Morgan Jewells
Nancy Lee
Kimberly Marble
Sara Mofford
Laura Parker
Ola Taras
Jackson Thomas

Duck Lab Newsletter

The DUCK Lab is on Facebook!

Parents, school administrators, and community partners:

We'd like to invite you to check us out on our brand new Facebook page! It's the easiest way to keep up to date on all of our current studies and to learn more about child development research findings. We also provide fun activity ideas for parents and children.

"Like Us" at www.facebook.com/uncgducklab



DUCK MEMBER UPDATE

Your participation in our research helps our students to achieve their degree requirements and career goals! Here is some recent news about lab members:

Stephanie Miller completed her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology and accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Mississippi. Congratulations, Stephanie!

Candace Lassiter completed her Master's Degree. Her thesis examined the development of guilt in 3- to 5- year-olds. Currently, Candy is collecting some more data for this project to get it ready for publication.

Naomi Chatley is a 3rd year graduate student who is currently working on her MA thesis. She has recently become a student mentor for the College STAR (Supporting Transition, Access and Retention) program at the UNCG AD/HD Clinic.

Ally Fischman became the DUCK Lab Manager in May, 2012. Ally has two B.A. degrees from UNCG (Communication Studies and Psychology).

We welcomed new graduate student Chelsea Hughes to the DUCK Lab in August. Chelsea is working with Dr. Boseovski and she is interested in the development of social cognition and stereotyping. Stay tuned to hear more about Chelsea's research.



What does child testing entail?

We often set up “recruitment tables” at the many schools, day cares and businesses that generously allow us to talk to parents about our research. We’ve been so grateful for your interest in our work and we wanted to take this opportunity to answer questions that may arise when considering whether you and your child wish to participate in research. For example, you may wonder, “Is my child’s information going to be shared with the whole world?” or “Are these college students trained to work with children?”

Facts about DUCK Lab research:

1. All of our research is approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at UNCG. They help to ensure that our studies are always designed with your child’s well-being in mind.
2. Your child’s personal information is only accessible to our trained DUCK Lab members. Also, we use ID numbers on all stored data so that the information that we collect cannot be paired readily with your child’s name.
3. All of our student research assistants have received rigorous training in ethical research practice and the proper administration of research protocols.
4. Our data are collected through playing games and reading stories rather than “tests” in which children feel pressured to produce “right” answers.

“My favorite thing about the DUCK Lab is the nice people. I really like the boy with the dog game.”

- Audrey



When do children begin to control their behavior?

Even as adults, it can be difficult to control our behavior. For example, we may find it tough to wait for an exciting event or to remember to run an errand at a specific time. We recently examined the development of behavioral control in 14- to 18-month-old infants. Infants played games in which they had to remember to search for hidden objects, wait to play with fun toys, or maintain attention when playing with another person.

We found that the infants worked to control their behavior even though they are not yet able to communicate well through spoken language. In particular, infants who took the opportunity to *point* and *gesture* during play sessions were better able to control their behavior. This finding suggests that parents can help children to build behavioral control through physical play and modeling of actions.

DUCK IN THE SPOTLIGHT - Spencer Mijanovich

What are you currently working on?

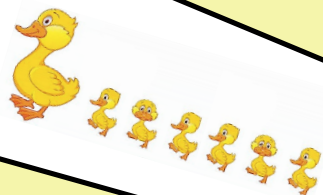
For my honors project, I’m examining potential differences in how children learn and apply their knowledge. I am interested in whether children can recognize patterns in what they see without being told that these patterns exist. If there are indeed individual differences, the results could help inform school curricula and teaching methods to accommodate different learning styles

What are your plans for the future?

I have a profound interest in being a counselor for teens suffering from substance abuse problems.

Why do you like working in the DUCK Lab?

The students I get to work with in the lab are wonderful! It’s a privilege to work with others who have similar goals as you do. I also love the fact that I’m able to get hands-on research experience.



Thank You!



A Child’s World, Apple Tree Academies, Apple of His Eye Learning Center, B’nai Shalom Day School, Bright Minds Academy, Brown Recreation Center, Canterbury School, Cardinal Childcare and Development, Centenary School, Child Care Network, Children’s Friend, Childtime Learning Center, Cogie Cathedral Daycare, Covenant Christian Day School, College Hill Childcare, Cornerstone Baptist Wee School, Craft Recreation Center, Creative World, Excel Christian Academy, Fairfield Enrichment Center, Faith Wesleyan Child Care, First Baptist Preschool, First Lutheran School For Young Children, First Presbyterian Weekday Preschool, Friendly Avenue Christian School, Forsyth Science Center, Glenwood Recreation Center, Greensboro Children’s Museum, Greensboro Cultural Center, Greensboro Public Library, Greensboro Youth Soccer Association, Guilford Prep Academy, Hayes-Taylor YMCA, Hester’s Creative School, High Point Friends Preschool, Holy Trinity Day School, Ice House, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Irving Park Preschool, Jo’s Home Center, Kids Ahead Afterschool Program, Kids R Kids, La Leche League, La Petite Academy, Leonard Recreation Center, Lindley Park Recreation Center, Little Feet Learning Center, Little Mouse Playhouse, MOPs, Muir’s Chapel Christian Playschool, Music Academy of NC, Myra’s Learning Kids Academy, Natural Science Center of Greensboro, Our Children’s House, Our Lady of Grace, Partners in Childcare, Pleasant Garden Child Care Center, Proehlfic Park, Ragsdale YMCA, Ruggles Street Learning Center, Spears Family YMCA, St. Francis Day School, St. Pius X, Starmount Preschool, The Sunshine House, Tabernacle Weekday School, Triad Christian Academy, Trotter Recreation Center, UNCG Child Care Education Program, Wee Care Child Development Center, Weekday Early Education, West Market Methodist Church Early Childhood Center, Y.E.S.S Learning Center, YMCA High Point, YWCA Greensboro

Making sense of behavior

With your assistance, we have just completed our 2-year federally funded project on children’s judgments about the causes of people’s behavior.

In this study, we wanted to determine whether 4- to 7-year-olds take into account personality traits versus situational influences on people’s behavior. For example, a person might behave negatively because she’s a mean person or because she’s feeling upset about something bad that just happened (e.g., stolen bike). To engage in appropriate social interactions, children must be able to make sound judgments about behavior without jumping to erroneous conclusions. Now that we have the data, we will be examining individual differences in this ability in relation to children’s emerging cognitive skills and various family characteristics, such as parenting style.

**Parents, children, and school staff and administrators:
Our work would not be possible without your support!**