

# DUCK Lab Newsletter

Spring 2016 – Volume 9



Development and Understanding of Children's Knowledge

## Diversity Awards Granted

Candace Lapan and Kimmy Marble, two DUCK Lab graduate students, were recipients of Diversity Travel Awards granted by the Cognitive Development Society! Worthy recipients are chosen from groups typically underrepresented in the field of cognitive development, and are granted a \$500 stipend and waived registration fee for the Cognitive Development Society conference. Candace and Kimmy are first generation university students mentored by Dr. Janet Boseovski. Both students travelled to Columbus, Ohio, in the fall of 2016 and presented on their recent DUCK Lab research!



Kimmy presented findings from a study that investigated how children learn new cultural information from other people. Candace presented her dissertation work on how children feel about themselves when they compare their performance to a peer's performance.

We appreciate the support of the Cognitive Development Society! This type of support is central to our students' professional development. We also extend our thanks to the parents and children of the DUCK Lab, whose generosity and involvement make our research possible!

## Upcoming Honors Student!



**Amber Campos** is an undergraduate DUCK Lab member who is interested in the relationship between social and emotional processes and behavior. This year, she is undertaking an honors research project investigating children's experiences of schadenfreude (pleasure in others' misfortune). Upon leaving UNCG, Amber hopes to attend graduate school and conduct neurocognitive research investigating the brain mechanisms underlying social and cognitive processes.

## Greensboro Science Center

The DUCK Lab and MD LaB (Memory Development, Learning, and Brain) have continued our collaborative research partnership with the Greensboro Science Center! As part of an ongoing project, we are seeking to understand how children learn and retain scientific information from parents and educators in the GSC setting.

Did you know that the GSC is one of only seven accredited locations in the U.S. to house a zoo, science center, and aquarium?!



In the coming months, we will be working with children between the ages of 4 and 8 years at the Animal Discovery Zoological Park and SciQuarium within the GSC. If you are planning a trip to the GSC, please stop by our table at the Discovery House or SciQuarium entrance to say "hello"!

## MEET THE DUCK LAB!

### Directors:

Dr. Janet Boseovski  
Dr. Stuart Marcovitch

### Lab Manager:

Kelsey McKinney

### Doctoral Candidate:

Candace Lapan

### Masters Candidates:

Delaney Bivens  
Jessica Caporaso  
Kimmy Marble

### Research Assistants:

Amber Campos  
Taylor Carrington  
Skyler Ferguson  
Kara Lowery  
Sarah Martin  
Hye Lim Shin  
Natalie Suchy  
Valeriya Tsygankova  
Catherine Warner  
Nyasa Wilson

Check out our **Facebook page** for info on studies and findings!

**Don't miss updates** about fun upcoming activities for parents and kids!

**Like us at** [www.facebook.com/uncgducklab](http://www.facebook.com/uncgducklab)



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**UNCG**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How is my child's information stored and used?

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.

### How are DUCK Lab members trained?

All of our student research assistants have received rigorous training in ethical research practice and the proper administration of research protocols.

### How can I be confident that the studies are okay for my child?

All 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.

### What are the studies like for my child?

Our data are collected through playing games and reading stories rather than "tests" in which children feel pressured to produce "right" answers.

### Further questions?

Feel free to contact us!

## Exciting Study Highlight!

### Learning from Experts Who Don't Fit Gender Stereotypes

Children often rely on other people to learn new information about the world. Even preschoolers know that some people have specialized knowledge (i.e., expertise) and they typically learn readily from such people. For example, 3-year-olds prefer to learn about a new animal from a zookeeper rather than a maternal figure. But what happens when children hear from experts who might not fit their stereotypes about people? In this study, 4- to 8-year-olds heard conflicting claims about various skills from gender counter-stereotypical experts (e.g., a boy with ballet expertise) versus gender stereotypical laypersons (e.g., a girl with little ballet experience). We then asked children to decide who was correct. Overall, children tended to judge experts as correct, but 4- to 6-year-olds expressed more *comfort with the idea of learning from same-gender others in the future*, irrespective of expertise. Six to 8-year-old boys were *reluctant to accept information from a female counter-stereotypical expert*. These findings highlight the importance of exposing children, and in particular boys in middle childhood, to gender counter-stereotypical role models both in and beyond the school system.

Boseovski, J. J., Hughes, C., & Miller, S. (in press). Expertise in unexpected places: Children's acceptance of information from gender counter-stereotypical experts. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*.

## Christopher Erb: A Post-Duck in the Lab

I grew up in a small town in Ohio. After attending college at the University of Cincinnati, I completed my Ph.D. in cognitive science at Brown University in 2015.

As a postdoctoral fellow in the DUCK lab, my focus is on developing, conducting, and overseeing research projects in the lab and at the Greensboro Science Center. In the lab, my research focuses on how children develop the capacity to control their ongoing thoughts and actions. I am particularly interested in how children's abilities to learn and reason about cause and effect relate to self-control. At the Science Center, I am working with undergraduate and graduate researchers to investigate how children learn from others, such as parents and zookeepers. In addition to conducting research, I am looking forward to teaching undergraduate students in the near future.



## Our Thanks!

Airbound Trampoline Park, Apple Tree Academies, Apple Tree Academies- Northgate, ArtQuest (Greenhill Center), Arts and Basics, Beginning Visions, Blanche S., Benjamin Branch Public Library, Brown Rec Center After School, Building Blocks Children's Center, Childcare Network, Children's Museum of Alamance County, Children's Museum of Winston-Salem, Childtime, Cogie Cathedral, College Hill Childcare, Curry Annex UNCG, Davis' Taekwondo America, EMF Explorers Kids Camp, Fairfield Enrichment Center (Now Childcare Network), Faith Wesleyan Childcare, First Baptist Preschool, First Presbyterian, Friendly Ave Christian School, Greensboro Children's Museum, Greensboro Science Center, Greensboro Summer Solstice, Griffin Recreation Center, Hartley Dr Family YMCA (previously High Point YMCA), Hayes Taylor YMCA A.S. Program, Hemphill Branch Library, "Hester's Creative Schools, Inc.", Jump-N-Fun, Kids Ahead, Kids-R-Kids, La Petite, Laurel Oak Christian Church, Leonard Rec Center, Lindley Rec Center After school Program, Little Feet Learning Center, Little Mouse Playhouse, Mad Science of the Piedmont, Mainstreet United Methodist Preschool, May Memorial Library, McGirt-Horton Branch Library, Mt. Pleasant Daycare Center, Muirs Chapel Christian Playschool, Our Children's House, Partners in Childcare, Proehlfic Park Family Sports Complex, Ragsdale YMCA, Rainbow (Used to be called Children's Friends), Ruggles Street Learning Center, SciWorks, Spears Family YMCA, Sunshine House, Tabernacle United Methodist, Tiger Kim's Tae Kwon Do, Triad Christian Academy, Tumblebees, Walkertown Branch Library, Weatherspoon Museum, Weekday Early Education (First Baptist Church), West Market Methodist Church, Y.E.S.S. Learning Center, YWCA Kidspace

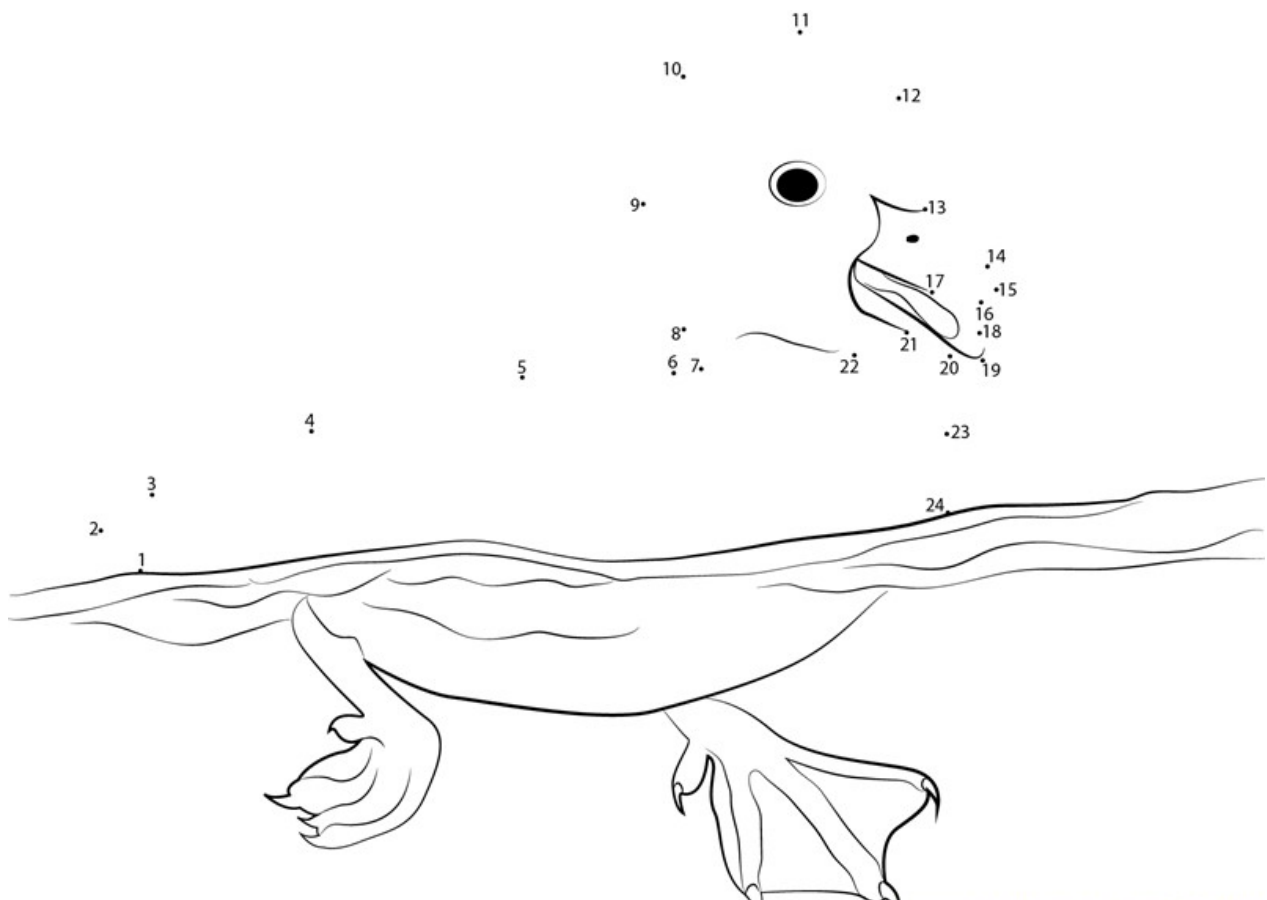


# Games and Coloring for DUCKlings!

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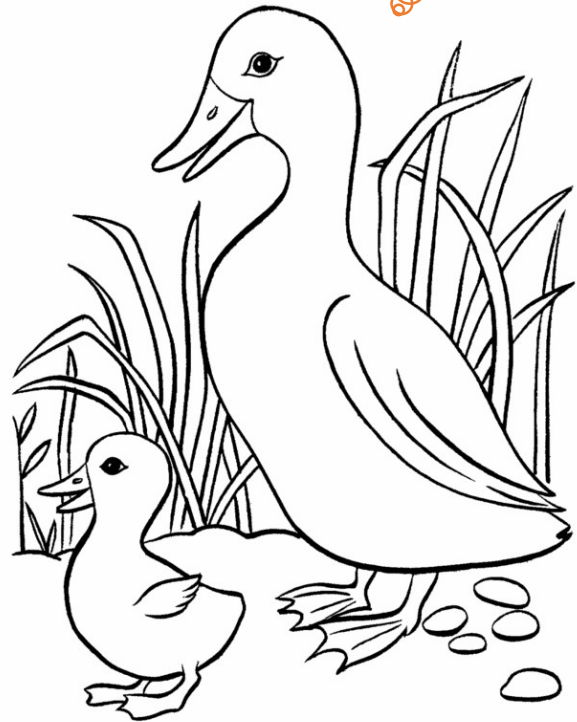
**Color by Number:** Connect the dots—but make sure you connect them in order! Start at dot number 1 and draw a line to dot number 2. Keep going until you get to dot number 24, and then color in the picture you made!

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*Duck Maze: Try to help this little duckling through the maze to find his mama duck!*

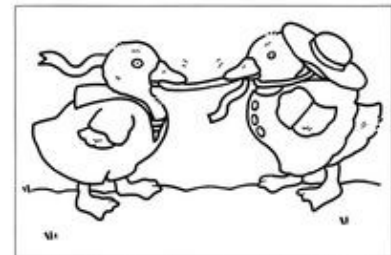
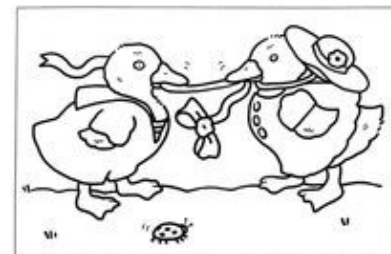


**Find-A-Feeling**  
WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

S	E	C	H	S	S	D	S	D	L	A	O	W	I	C
F	T	S	O	T	D	D	U	W	H	N	E	S	T	O
E	I	I	E	N	T	H	O	P	E	F	U	I	A	D
U	O	E	D	T	F	R	U	S	T	R	A	T	E	D
L	I	L	O	C	R	I	C	I	T	A	T	S	C	E
T	O	S	S	I	E	O	D	L	O	A	U	U	D	S
H	L	N	E	X	C	I	T	E	D	F	I	O	O	I
A	I	D	E	K	C	O	H	S	N	A	R	L	K	R
P	F	E	N	L	R	S	U	O	I	T	U	A	C	P
P	T	R	R	H	Y	D	C	F	P	D	F	E	U	R
Y	S	O	A	R	S	U	O	V	R	E	N	J	H	U
E	T	B	G	I	H	O	P	E	F	U	L	R	O	S
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W	A	P	D	R	E	P	I	P	T	E	T	E	S	A
L	S	U	I	O	T	T	L	T	R	H	O	Y	G	S

SURPRISED	ENRAGED	PROUD
NERVOUS	HAPPY	PROUD
AFRAID	ANGRY	CONFIDENT
CAUTIOUS	FRUSTRATED	LONELY
CONFUSED	BORED	SHOCKED
ECSTATIC	JEALOUS	HOPELESS
EXCITED	WORRIED	SAD

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*Spot the Differences: Can you find the 3 differences between these pictures of ducks playing together?*