



DUCK Lab Newsletter

Fall 2021: Volume 15



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Jessica Caporaso

Graduate Students:

Kathleen Bettencourt, Megan Gast, Lindsay Jarvis,
Kimmy Marble, Anjali Pradeep, Andrea Yuly

Research Assistants & Volunteers:

Kaitlyn Baker, Kelsey Barrett, Kelsey Black, Maura
Crenshaw, LaNai Davidson, Audrey Day, Isabel
Iturbide

Congratulations, Dr. Caporaso!

We've got a new Doctor in the house! Jessica Caporaso successfully defended her dissertation in the Spring of 2021. For her dissertation, Jessica investigated how children's abilities to resolve peer conflicts developed during the pre-kindergarten year. Jessica specifically focused on children's self-regulatory behavior as a factor that contributes to the improvement in their ability to resolve peer conflict in a non-aggressive manner. Overall, children with better regulatory abilities had better conflict resolution skills by the end of the pre-kindergarten year. This was particularly true for children with outgoing personalities who are more likely to be impulsive in social situations. Jessica's findings provide insight about the skills that children require to interact appropriately with their peers and pinpoint the specific children for whom these skills may be the most important. Her dissertation project was completed due to the generous participation of families, school administrators, and teachers in the Greensboro community! Thank you!



COVID-19 Lab Update: Sign up today to participate in new research opportunities!

We continue to offer virtual opportunities for your family to participate in our ongoing research. These online sessions take place via Zoom, and we are happy to schedule with your family by phone or email. We offer flexible options (e.g., weekends, evenings), so please reach out to us if you would like to hear more about how you can take part in science and support our students virtually! Sign up to participate at [www.duck-lab.com/for-parents/faq!](http://www.duck-lab.com/for-parents/faq)

Don't miss updates about fun activities for parents and kids!
www.facebook.com/uncgducklab



Be sure to check out our website:
www.duck-lab.com



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New Publication Features Work at the Greensboro Science Center

A Greensboro Science Center project was featured as part of a special issue of *Frontiers in Psychology* that focused on children’s learning in museums. Our interest was on who children pay attention to during museum learning in their everyday lives. Although young children recognize what it means to be an “expert,” children may be more likely to trust information that comes from parents, who are often comfortable and familiar sources of information. We examined whether 4- to 8-year-olds prefer and better remember positive, neutral, or negative information presented by a familiar person (e.g., a mom) versus an expert (e.g., a zookeeper) at the GSC’s Amazon Edge exhibit. We found that children *preferred* positive facts about an animal, regardless of whether this information was provided by an expert. However, children *remembered* neutral facts best when they were asked about the animal later. This difference suggests that children’s initial interest might be captured by positive remarks about an exhibit, but children might learn best in these settings when a variety of facts are presented in a neutral way. These findings highlight how parents and educators can guide children’s learning during museum experiences. For example, ‘what’ we say to children during these experiences may be just as important for children’s learning as opportunities to interact with experts. In addition, children might benefit from conversation that draws attention to experts and what experts know in these settings.

Join us for Crafts & Conversation at LeBauer Park!

We will be at LeBauer Park every other Saturday this Fall and next Spring. Stop by for some fun, free, and developmentally-relevant crafts!

Saturday, November 13th
Saturday, November 20th
Saturday, December 4th

Our Spring dates will be posted on Facebook in the upcoming months!

Welcome to our new graduate students!



Lindsay Jarvis graduated from Virginia Tech. She is interested in children’s beliefs about ecosystems, such as how children understand the role of plants in maintaining ecosystems.



Anjali Pradeep graduated from the University of Kansas. Her research interests center on how executive function relates to children’s understanding of science.



Megan Gast graduated from Wake Forest University. She is interested in studying perceptions of individuals that choose to remain childfree.

Thank you for participating!

A Child’s World-Cherry, A Child’s World-Hartman, Altamahaw Baptist Daycare, Apple Tree Academies-Greensboro, Apple Tree Academies-High Point, Arts and Basics, Baptist Temple Day School, Big Brothers Big Sisters of High Point, Building Blocks Children’s Center, Childcare Network #162, Childcare Network #161, Childcare Network #237, Childcare Network #242, Childcare Network #56, Childcare Network #78, Childcare Network #157, Childcare Network #163, Childcare Network #207, Childcare Network #242, Children’s Christian Playschool, Children Helping Science, College Hill Childcare Co-operative, Curry 205 UNCG, Curry Annex UNCG, Day in the Park Festival, Educational Playtime Too-Spring Garden, Excel Christian Academy, Fellowship Day School, First Baptist Preschool, First Presbyterian Weekday Preschool, First Step Preschool, Friendly Ave Christian School, Friends Playhouse Child Care, Greensboro Children’s Museum, Greensboro Science Center, Greensboro Summer Solstice, Guilford County Heart and Stroke Walk, Hartley Dr. Family YMCA, Hester’s Creative Schools, Inc., Holy Trinity Day School, Jesse Wharton Elementary School, Jones Elementary School, Junior League of Greensboro Touch-a-Truck Festival, Kids Ahead, Kids-R- Kids 1, Kids-R-Kids 2, KinderCare Education, La Petite Academy-Greensboro, LeBauer Park, Little Bo Peep Daycare, Little Feet Learning Center, Little Mouse Playhouse, Little One’s World Academy, Little Thinkers, Mainstreet United Methodist Preschool, Mt. Pleasant Daycare Center, Muirs Chapel Christian Playschool, Our Children’s House, Piedmont Triad Farmer’s Market, Science Everywhere, Small Wonders Early Education Center, Spartan Cinema, Spears Family YMCA, Sunshine House #209, Sunshine House #39, Sunshine House #40, Sunshine House #125, The Learning Palette Preschool, Wee Care CDC, West Market Methodist Early Childhood Center, Winston Salem Junction Market