



Development and Understanding of Children's Knowledge DUCK Lab website: www.uncg.edu/~s_marcov

Meet the DUCK Lab

◆ Directors

Dr. Janet Boseovski
Dr. Stuart Marcovitch

◆ Lab Manager

Emilie Peterson

◆ Doctoral Candidates

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◆ Master's Candidates

Candace Lassiter, B.A.
Naomi Chatley, B.A.

◆ Honors Students

Sabrina Epps *
Allison O'Leary *

◆ Research Assistants

Vanessa Alvarado
Catherine Bechard
Rebecca Bryce
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Jason Rouse

**Awarded UNCG Undergraduate Research Assistantship*

DUCK Lab Newsletter

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Dear Parents, Preschools, & Schools:

We have had a great time working with you and your children this year and we thank you for your continued support. We're proud to share with you a number of exciting achievements over the past year: we were awarded a federally funded grant, we completed a number of research projects and presented the findings at national and international research meetings, and we published our work in prestigious academic journals (see lab website for details).

In this issue, we introduce you to some of the people that contribute to the success of the DUCK lab, from researchers to participants. We also suggest fun activities that you can do with your children that are geared toward enhancing cognitive development.

Thank you again for supporting our research mission to promote children's well being by learning about their development. We are excited for another eventful year!

Warmest wishes,

Janet, Stuart, and The DUCK Lab



Our Fall, 2010 Duckies

This past Halloween, we competed in a door decorating contest in the Psychology department here at UNCG. Here is our humorous duck-themed door!



Understanding Others

We are excited to announce that Dr. Boseovski received a research grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) to support a new study that will investigate the way in which children make personality judgments about other people.

Specifically, this project will examine the types of information that children use to make a decision about the causes of positive and negative events. For example, when observing negative behavior, children may attribute it to an individual's personality or to a situational factor such as tiredness or sadness.

This research will contribute to our understanding of children's peer relations and it will inform intervention programs that are designed to promote positive social adjustment.

Researcher in the Pond

What are you working on?

Currently, I'm working on my senior honors thesis in the DUCK Lab. For this project, I am investigating children's reliance on various sources of information, such as parents or zookeepers, to learn about unfamiliar animals.

What are your plans for the future?

I would like to go to graduate school in psychobiology to earn a Ph.D. I am interested in studying various aspects of infant and child development, such as behavioral embryology, emotional regulation, how the body reacts and adjusts to stress, and sleep cycles.

What is your favorite part of working in the DUCK Lab?

I love working in the lab because of the valuable research experience that I have gained. I've been given a great opportunity to conduct my own original research project as an undergraduate, which will prepare me well for graduate school. I've also enjoyed the opportunity to work with parents, children, faculty, and other lab researchers.



Featured Duckling



"My favorite thing about the DUCK Lab is playing all the games because they are fun. I like picking out a prize too!" - Claire Campbell, 4 years old

Activity for parents and kids

Rainbow Art

Start with a plain sheet of paper, and cover it thickly with bright crayons in many colors, such as orange, yellow, green, and red. Once you have covered the whole sheet of paper in bright patterns, draw over the colors using the side of a black or dark blue crayon so that the bright colors are no longer visible. Now draw pictures using a spoon handle or a similar hard object, gently peeling off the top layer exposing the colors underneath. Together you can create beautiful works of art!



Study Updates! How can interactive learning experiences help your preschooler?

Children first experience and learn about the world through physical interactions and play. Through infancy and childhood, children retain a learning advantage when they have the opportunity for hands-on experiences.

We have recently completed a study that demonstrated that learning through physical action is also helpful for older preschoolers, especially because they are starting to use strategies to help them remember. In the study, children were asked to either act out common action phrases or to speak them aloud (e.g., blow out birthday candles). They were then asked to remember the things they did or said.

Even though younger children have difficulties using strategies to aid memory, they still benefit through hands-on interactions. Encourage your children to explore their world with you through projects, field trips, and pretend play.



Thanks!

A big thanks goes out to all the child care centers, schools, and parents who participated in this research.

A Child's World, Apple Tree Academies, Apples of His Eye Learning Center, Bright Minds Academy, Canterbury School, Cardinal Childcare and Development, Centenary School, Child Care Network, Children's Friend, Childtime Learning Center, Coptic Cathedral Daycare, Covenant Christian Day School, College Hill Childcare, Cornerstone Baptist Wee School, Creative World, Excell 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, 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, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Irving Park Preschool, Jo's Home Center, Kids Ahead Afterschool Program, Kids R Kids, La Leche League, La Petite Academy, Lindley Park Recreation Center, Little Feet Learning Center, Little Mouse Playhouse, MOPs, Muirs Chapel Christian Playschool, Music Academy of NC, Myra's Learning Kids Academy, 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, 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