

CHILD COGNITION LAB

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

※ Parent Newsletter ※

※ Spring 2009 ※

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on what we have been working on at the Child Cognition Lab. We have been very busy with several studies looking at how children learn, and continue to design new studies to help further our understanding of child development.

Thank you to all the families and daycares who have participated in our studies. Our research would not be possible without your cooperation and we appreciate your help! We hope that you and your children found the experience to be interesting and fun.

Please do not hesitate to forward our information to family, friends, and daycares who might be interested in taking part in our research. We continue to need participants and are currently looking for children between the ages of 2 and 10 years. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact us at (617) 358-1738 or childlab@bu.edu.

Sincerely,
The Child Cognition Lab



Child Development Labs

Who is working in
the lab this spring?

Lab Director

Professor Deb Kelemen

Lab Manager

Rebecca Seston

Graduate Student

Juliana Gorian

Research Assistants

Samantha Barry

Kristy Bondi

Missy Goldberg

Holly Jacobs

Tracy Kilcoyne

Anna Kyritsis

Alissa Makarovskaya

Jennifer Ontaneda

Josh Rottman

Dana Schmohl

Meredith Taylor



Current Studies

Storybook

PARTICIPANTS: 5-10 year olds

DURATION OF STUDY: 20 minutes

DESCRIPTION: In this study we are interested in whether children can learn new information from storybooks, and what kind of information they retain. We'll read a storybook with your child and then ask him/her to help us retell it.



Conventionality

PARTICIPANTS: 3.5-yr olds (38-46 mo) and 4.5-yr-olds

DURATION OF STUDY: 20 minutes

DESCRIPTION: This study is looking at how children learn about unfamiliar objects. We are interested in what social and design cues children are paying attention to when learning what new objects are for. Children will see adults use new tools to perform a simple goal and then choose which tool they would use for themselves.



Natural Objects

PARTICIPANTS: 2.5-yr-olds (28-32 mo) and 3.5-yr-olds (40-44 mo)

DURATION OF STUDY: Two visits 1-3 days apart, 20 minutes on day 1 and 10 minutes on day 2

DESCRIPTION: This study is looking at how children learn from other people. We show kids what we can do with some new toys, and then we watch the decisions they make when using these toys to perform a goal.



Speeded TE

PARTICIPANTS: Adults

DURATION OF STUDY: 1 hour

DESCRIPTION: This study is looking at

Recent Results

Recent Publications

※Casler, K. & Kelemen, D. (2008). Developmental continuity in the teleo-functional explanation: Reasoning about nature among Romanian Romani adults. *Journal of Cognition and Development, 9(3)*, 340-362. *

This cross-cultural study explores whether apparent restrictions in using teleo-functional explanations to account for all objects in terms of purpose occurs as a function of age and development or scientific literacy.

※DiYanni, C. & Kelemen, D. (2008). Using a bad tool with good intention: Young childrens' imitation of adults' questionable choices. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*. *

This article presents three studies exploring 2- to 4-year-old's responses upon witnessing a model whose questionable tool use choices suggested her untrustworthiness.

※Rosset, E. (2008). It's no accident: Our bias for intentional explanations. *Cognition, in press*. **

Three studies tested the idea that our analyses of human behavior are guided by an "intentionality bias," an implicit bias where all actions are judged to be intentional by default.

* Can be found at www.bu.edu/childcognition/publications

** Can be found at www.bu.edu/childcognition/people under Evelyn Rosset

Picture of CCL team

We are still working hard and are always looking for children and parents who are interested in helping us! If you would like to get involved, or know others who would be interested in participating in our studies please contact us! We are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. We can also schedule evening hours or home visits to accommodate difficult schedules.

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Keep us updated!
Email or call us with contact information changes