

Boston University Developing Minds Lab

Academic Year 2018 – 2019 Newsletter



What has the Developing Minds Lab been up to?

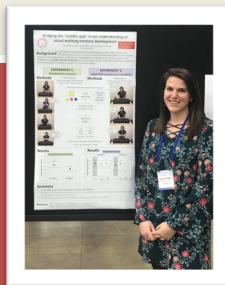
The Developing Minds Lab at Boston University has had a very productive and fast-paced year! We have started up lots of brand new studies, presented at conferences, and published some of our work. All of this was made possible through your support!

Thank you!

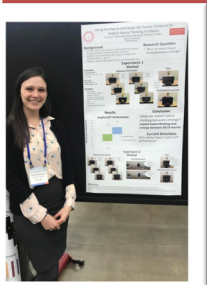


Developing Minds Lab on the road

Attending conferences is a great opportunity for us to share our work and get feedback from others in the field! Some of our recent research findings were presented at the Society for Research on Child Development conference in Baltimore in March. Post doctoral researcher, Tashauna Blankenship, presented posters on toddler memory and children's attention and gave a talk on children's ability to use memory to plan. Fourth year graduate student, Jessica Applin, presented a poster on a new task designed to test toddlers' working memory and gave two talks on infant working memory



development. Jessica also recently presented her work at the Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development in Budapest, Hungary. This summer Tashauna Blankenship and second year graduate student, Praveen Kenderla, will head to the Vision Sciences Society Conference at St. Pete's Beach, Florida.



What's new at the DML?

You may remember our Magic Box study, where we were interested in how children use memory to plan and think about the future. This past year, we have started an exciting extension to the Magic Box study, funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, investigating the relation between children's memory and their brain activity (EEG 'thinking' cap pictured left)! During this study, children learn a series of actions involving our "magic box" and then are given new goals that require using their memory of the actions. While they are completing the study, children will wear our thinking caps

and we collect their brain activity. We are interested in how the activity in their brains changes as their memory is challenged.



Hot off the Press!

You may remember your little scientist participating in some of our puppet show studies examining at infants' working memory development. We found that, at just 6-months of age, infants can use objects' categories to remember their identities, and can learn about another person's preference for one object over another, and can keep track of that person's preferred object even when it is hidden from view. We recently published these two studies in the journals of *Psychological Science* and *Infancy*, respectively.

<http://www.bu.edu/cdl/files/2019/01/2019-ApplinKibbe-Infancy.pdf>

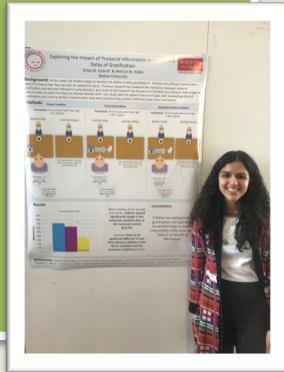
<http://www.bu.edu/cdl/files/2019/01/2019-KibbeLeslie-PsychScience.pdf>



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Undergraduate Research Spotlight

Sophomore undergraduate research assistant Shiba Esfand presented her research on how prosocial information can impact children's delay of gratification at the Fenway Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference at Emmanuel College. Our little scientists may remember taking part in this Treats study. This conference featured research from all areas of Psychology. Shiba's research looks at how developing sharing abilities and prosocial information can impact preschooler's delay of gratification.

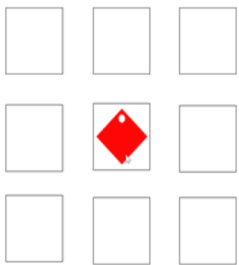


Visit us at the Museum of Science

The DML is currently conducting a study at the Discovery Center located in the Boston Museum of Science. This study is looking at whether the social value of an object can potentially impact children's memory for the object. Stop by to participate in this research!



Children's memory put to the test!



In this new study by our graduate student, Praveen Kenderla, we are exploring how 8 to 10 year-olds strategize information in their working memory and explore their environment to achieve goals of different complexities. In the study, children play a computer

memory game where they match objects (such as the one on picture to the left) that go together based on different rules, such as similar shape, color, or texture. We are tracking how many objects children can remember and how they search to correctly match the objects and achieve the goal!

Thank you for all your support!

We want to thank you all so much for making all of this research possible! We would be happy to welcome your family back into the new to participate in some fun new research! If you or anyone you know is interested in participating, you can learn more about our lab on our website:

<http://www.bu.edu/cdl/developing-minds-lab/>

or fill out our participant sign-up form:

<http://www.bu.edu/cdl/developing-minds-lab/for-parents/developing-minds-lab-for-parents-participant-sign-up/>

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/DevelopingMindsLabBU/>



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