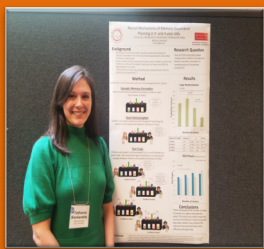


What has the Developing Minds Lab been up to?

The Developing Minds Lab at Boston University has been very busy this year! We have presented ongoing research projects at conferences, brought on a new postdoctoral researcher, started conducting a bunch of brand new studies, and published some of our work. We could not have done any of it without help from our amazing little scientists, so we want to say thank you and update you on all these accomplishments!

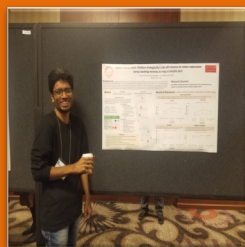


The Developing Minds Lab on the road

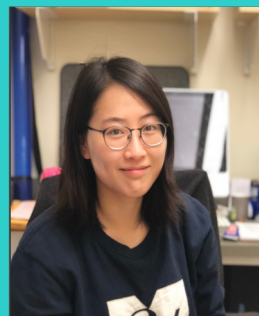


Attending conferences is a great opportunity for us to share our work and get feedback from others in the field! Some of our research findings were presented at the Cognitive Development Society conference in Louis-

ville in October. Postdoctoral researcher, Tashauna Blankenship, presented her research on neural mechanisms that influence toddler's attention and memory. Graduate student Praveen Kenderla presented his research on children's memory for objects and their different categorical features. We are headed to the Vision Sciences Society Conference and the International Conference on Infant studies this summer to present some of our new findings!



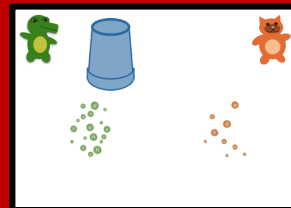
Welcoming our new postdoctoral fellow



Dr. Chen Cheng joined our team as a postdoctoral research fellow. She is working on new research on children's approximate number sense, funded by the National Science Foundation. Dr. Cheng completed her PhD at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Welcome, Chen!

What's new at the DML?

In this new study, kids use their approximate number sense to compute and compare several piles of buttons on a computer screen, and help us find who the winner of the button contest is, Gator or Cheetah!



After the button contest, children play a hide-and-seek game where we look at their ability to keep track of hidden objects. We are looking at whether kids' memory plays a role in their ability to manipulate and compare approximate quantities.

Hot off the Press!

You may remember your little scientist participating in our study looking at toddlers' abilities to plan and think about future events. We found that children use memories to guide their planning behaviors, and the ability to do so improves from 3 to 4 years old. These findings have recently been published in *Cognitive Development*, which you can check out here:

<http://www.bu.edu/cdl/files/2019/10/2019-BlankenshipKibbe-CogDev.pdf>

Your children may have participated in our study looking at how developing sharing abilities can influence children's ability to delay gratification. We found that children are willing to wait longer in order to help another child get a reward, even when there is no benefit for themselves. Our findings have been published in the *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, which you can check out here:

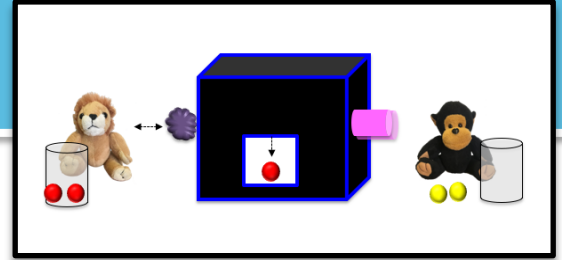
<http://www.bu.edu/cdl/files/2019/10/2019-GruenEsfandKibbe-JECP.pdf>

Boston University Developing Minds Lab Newsletter 2019-2020

Toddlers' memory and planning put to the test

Do you remember our Magic Box study looking at children's memory and their ability to plan for future events? We recently started an extension of this study for 2 and 3-year olds. During this study children learn that placing an object on top of a Magic box results in a certain colored bead appearing

Children are then asked to use their memories to complete treasure maps. We are interested in seeing whether the visual aid of the treasure map can help children accurately retrieve and use memories.



Visit Us at the Museum of Science, Boston!

We are continuing our research in the Discovery Center, looking at how children use their early number sense to learn about formal math.

This year, we also started doing research in the Natural Mysteries exhibit! In these studies, we look at how children learn the labels of objects, and what features of objects they think are most important when learning new object categories.



Can naming objects help babies remember objects better?

Six-month-old babies have a difficult time remember the shapes of multiple hidden objects. But what if we can somehow show babies that the shapes are important? In this study, babies watch a puppet show in which an actor points to different objects and gives them names. We then hide the objects from babies and see if they can keep track of where they are hidden.



Thank you for all your support!

We want to thank you all so much for making all of this research possible, we could not have done it without you! We would be happy to welcome your family back into the lab to participate in some of our fun new research! If you or anyone you know is interested in participating, you can learn more about our lab on our website:

www.bu.edu/cdl/developing-minds-lab/

or fill our our participant sign up form:

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

Don't forget to check us out on our Facebook page!

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



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