

Meet the Duck Lab

- ◆ Directors
 - Dr. Janet Boseovski
 - Dr. Stuart Marcovitch
- ◆ Lab Manager
 - Gretchen Gleason, B.A.
- ◆ Doctoral Candidates
 - Melissa McConnell, M.A.
 - Stephanie Miller, M.A.
 - Janet Leigh, B.A.
 - Jamie Lee Peterson, B.A.
- ◆ Honors Students
 - Amanda Ovsenik
- ◆ Research Assistants
 - Naomi Chatley
 - Felicia Hall
 - Stacey Green
 - Candy LaPan
 - Emilie Peterson
 - Lindsey Waldron, B.A.

Duck Lab Newsletter

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Dear Parents, Preschools, & Schools:

We would like to thank you for participating in our research over the past year! With your help, we have tested hundreds of children both in our laboratory and in the community. Your support has enabled us to learn more about children's social, emotional and cognitive development with the goal of enhancing their daily lives (e.g., in the home; at school).



Duck lab members, Fall 2008

We want to share with you a little about what is going on in our lab since our last newsletter. One of our biggest changes this year is our new name: While we used to be known as the Cognitive Development Center, we are now the DUCK Lab (Development and Understanding of Children's Knowledge).

In this updated edition of our newsletter, we want to tell you about our most recent studies and introduce you to some of the dedicated student researchers who interact with your children.

Spotlight on a Researcher

Name: Felicia Hall

Major: Psychology

Why an interest in psychology: I love learning about human behavior and the possible explanations as to why humans behave the way they do.

Favorite task to play with the children and why: I like all of the tasks we play with children because they love playing them so much. I like how excited they get to play with us.

Best part of being in the duck lab: I love the people in the lab. Everyone is so much fun!



Felicia Hall

Websites of Interest:

Information on child development and parenting:

- www.childdevelopmentinfo.com

Fun educational games and songs for children:

- www.uptoten.com

Duck lab

- http://www.uncg.edu/~s_marcov/ccd.htm

Hobbies: Spending time with my family!

Two of Our Tasks:

Learning Through Language



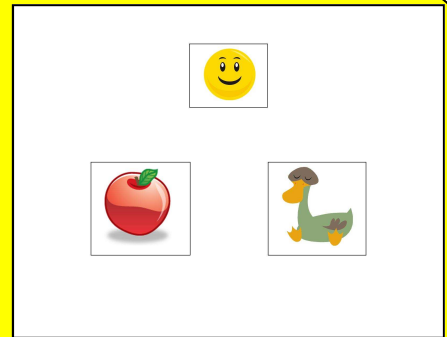
Lab
pet of
the
month!

Meet Pickle and Baldwin, two of our favorite pets in the lab. Pickle enjoys eating animal crackers and Baldwin likes to play catch!

One of our newest studies looks at how language is related to children's control of behavior. When working through a task that is new to them (e.g., tying their shoes), many children use language to focus their attention and direct their behavior. In this study, we are examining whether young children's vocabulary is related to the control of their own behavior. To assess this, we first measure young children's vocabulary, and then play several control games with them - ranging from searching for hidden objects to seeing if they can stop themselves from peeking at a surprise present. This research will help us better understand how language is related to the way children behave. Stay tuned for the results of this study!

Remembering to Remember

One project we reported on last year is almost completed and we have learned more about how children go about remembering to do something in the future. To assess whether "future oriented" memories interfere with present activities, children play a computer game where they are instructed to select certain types of pictures. We also ask them to remember a special picture and to perform a unique action when that special picture appears. We found that when children are asked to remember the special instructions they are slower when playing the matching games. This shows us that children can remember to do something in the future, but it makes them a little bit slower at their current activity. This is in line with research conducted with adults, and has implications for how we teach memory strategies to young children.



Thanks!

Participating Daycares: Apples of His Eye Learning Center, Bright Minds Academy, Canterbury School, Cardinal Childcare and Development, Child Care Network, Childtime Learning Center, Cogie Cathedral Daycare, Covenant Christian Day School, College Hill Childcare, Cornerstone Baptist Wee School, Creative World, Excel Christian Academy, Faith Wesleyan Child Care, Fairfield Enrichment Center, First Baptist Preschool, First Lutheran School For Young Children, First Presbyterian Weekday Preschool, Friendly Avenue Christian School, Hester's Creative School, Holy Trinity Day School, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Jo's Home Center, Kids R Kids, La Petite Academy, Little Feet Learning Center, Little Mouse Playhouse, Myra's Learning Kids Academy, Our Children's House, Partners in Childcare, Pleasant Garden Child Care Center, Ruggles Street Learning Center, St. Francis Day School, St. Pius X, The Sunshine House, Tabernacle Weekday School, UNCG Child Care Education Program, Wee Care Child Development Center, YMCA High Point, YWCA Greensboro

A Big Thanks goes out to all the child care centers, schools, and parents who volunteered to participate in this research. Without your help, none of this would be possible!