



NeuDLL News

Newsletter of the Neurodevelopmental Disorders Language and Learning Lab

At the University of Washington

Volume 4, 2017

NeuDLL Research

The article *Brief Report: Ages of Language Milestones as Predictors of Developmental Trajectories in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder* was published in 2016 in the *Journal of Developmental Disabilities and Disorders*. The data for this study were collected at University of Wisconsin-Madison under the direction of Dr. Susan Ellis Weismer. The project reported in this paper was a collaboration across three departments: Dr. Kover here in Speech and Hearing Sciences at UW, Dr. Ellis Weismer in Wisconsin, and Sarah Edmunds, a doctoral student in Psychology here at UW. The study examined whether the ages of first words and first phrases and vocabulary size in children with autism spectrum disorder could predict later development of language, cognition and adaptive behavior. Previous studies had shown that the age of a child's first words predict later aspects of the child's development. The results show that age of first words and vocabulary size could serve as predictors for a child's later language and adaptive skills; however, the number of words a child produces, rather than the milestone of when words were first produced might be more informative. More research in this area is needed, especially since the age of a child's first words is often a salient milestone for parents and primary care physicians.

Fall in Seattle is here!

Looking for autumn themed activities that are fun for the whole family? Here are our top recommendations from NeuDLL lab members.

Fox Hollow Farm:

This family friendly farm located in Issaquah has many festive autumn activities for children of every age. There is pumpkin patch ready for picking, not to mention hayrides, farm animals, and a hay-bale maze.

The Farm at Swan's Trail

This beautiful Snohomish farm features delicious Jonagold and Honeycrisp apple trees. Be sure not to miss other fun seasonal activities such as wagon rides, duck races, a corn maze, and hay jump.

Oxbow Farm:

Grab your very own wheelbarrow and pick out the perfect organic pumpkin. Don't miss the Fall themed playground featuring a teepee covered in gourds, a house of hay, hayrides, and a pumpkin sling-shot.



Updates on the MAPping Study

The MAPping study explores how children learn words with a focus on memory, attention, and the phonology of words (the way words sound). The study focuses on how children with neurodevelopmental disabilities develop language skills. Recently, the NeuDLL lab has expanded the study to include a new group of children: those with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. The NeuDLL lab members have been busy seeing participants this summer. The data we collect give us valuable information about the skills that support children's language learning. We look forward to completing our work and sharing the results!

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Fall Word Search!

N A K S I T R G B T P Z R M S
 R M I M C A A T E F U W J I Y
 S D U J Y A R U W D M T C A Z
 Q K L T W B R F B C P Z R N S
 U O K W U D I E O V K M U C H
 S Q C C G A P X C B I N Y A P
 H A L L O W E E N R N W R I I
 F H V W W X L T C C O V E E U
 I P D Y D W V U Y R E W L K N
 D D N L Y F Y J U S I P B J I
 I S E V A E L K T Z P S V Y F
 L L A Y X X K T D A O N P I A
 R E F W I N D Y C Y X V X Z L
 S U E Z M M P O S H T J N A L
 F I T H V O G N C Y Q Z D W D

Word Bank

APPLE AUTUMN COBWEB CRISP FALL
 HALLOWEEN HARVEST LEAVES PIE WINDY



Interview with Master's Graduate Juliet Gordon

Tell me about yourself.

I'm from Los Angeles, CA. I got my first bachelor's degree in psychology from UC Davis. I worked with kids with disabilities after that. I ended up working a lot with a speech therapist and found myself fascinated with this work. I was accepted to the program here at UW and moved to Seattle. I couldn't be happier with my choice.

What do you do in the NeuDLL lab?

I'm a study coordinator for the Expressive Language Sampling (ELS) study. As an examiner for the study, I explain the study to participants and families and obtain informed consent, administer and score standardized tests, and elicit and transcribe standardized language samples. My favorite thing is getting to interact directly with families and kiddos.

What are your plans for after graduate school?

I'm hoping to get a job in early intervention, meaning I would provide speech-language services for families with kids from birth to age three. I'd also love working in a preschool setting.

Participate in NeuDLL Research

The NeuDLL Lab at the University of Washington is conducting research on how children learn words! We are seeking children who have autism spectrum disorder, fragile X syndrome, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders or no developmental disabilities.

To learn about opportunities to participate in our research visit our website <https://sphsc.washington.edu/research-labs/neurodevelopmental-disorders-language-and-learning-lab/about-us> or contact us at NeuDLL@uw.edu or 206-685-2202.



Meet the Director: Research as a Career

What's the best part about being a researcher? Dr. Kover enjoys the excitement of learning new things and working in an area that she's passionate about. Every day is different, from writing, to analyzing data, and interpreting results to designing fun tasks or picking out prizes for participants. The best part is working with the families that come to the lab. Second to that is having an outlet for exercising attention to detail :)

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