

# March 2022

## Temple University Infant & Child Lab

Widener Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
580 Meetinghouse Road,  
Ambler, PA 19002

Interested in participating or  
know someone who is?

We have studies for children  
from 5 months to 9 years  
old.

Give us a call at:  
(267) 468-8610

Email us at:  
[infantlab@temple.edu](mailto:infantlab@temple.edu)

We would love to speak with  
you!

We're on the Web  
<http://templeinfantlab.com/>

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[Temple Infant and  
Child Lab](#)



TEMPLE  
**INFANT  
& CHILD**  
LABORATORY

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Projects in Progress: Read on for  
updates on some of our recent work

Featured Reading: Social interaction  
with babies, navigation skills in mid-  
childhood

TICL in the News: Read about the  
Smith Playground's reopening

Studies in the spotlight: See what  
studies are currently recruiting!

TICL Members Moving On:  
Congratulations to our 2020 graduates!



Thank you to all of our  
supporters in 2021!

## Playful Learning Landscapes is everywhere!

From Philadelphia to Santa Ana; from Omaha to Baltimore. We joined with Bright Horizons to bring playful learning landscapes to their playgrounds.



### **FRACTION BALL IN SANTA ANA**

Researchers at UC Irvine and El Sol Sciences & Arts Academy partnered in the creation of Fraction Ball in Santa Ana, CA. For Fraction Ball, the lines on a basketball court are painted to emphasize fraction and decimal learning by allowing children to take shots that are worth a fraction of a point with the goal of earning an exact number of points on a number line next to the court.

*Photo: Andres Bustamante*

## **DUET 2.0**

The DUET project is growing with a \$500,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation to Rebeca Alper! We are expanding on a caregiver-implemented early language intervention for children in low socioeconomic status (SES) households and extending our outreach to the Hispanic Community.

Read more here: <https://cph.temple.edu/about/news-events/news/alper-receives-william-penn-foundation-grant-expand-early-language>

# Featured Reading

## Early interaction with babies, and its role in building language and attention *led by Lillian Masek*

- Fluency and connectedness are key! Our researchers have found that smooth, back-and-forth communication, both verbal and nonverbal, between you and your two-year old can predict language skills at age 3.
- *How can I do this?* Engage in back-and-forth conversation with your little one and give them as much undivided attention in these interactions as possible!
- Focusing on prompt and meaningful responses to your child will also be beneficial!

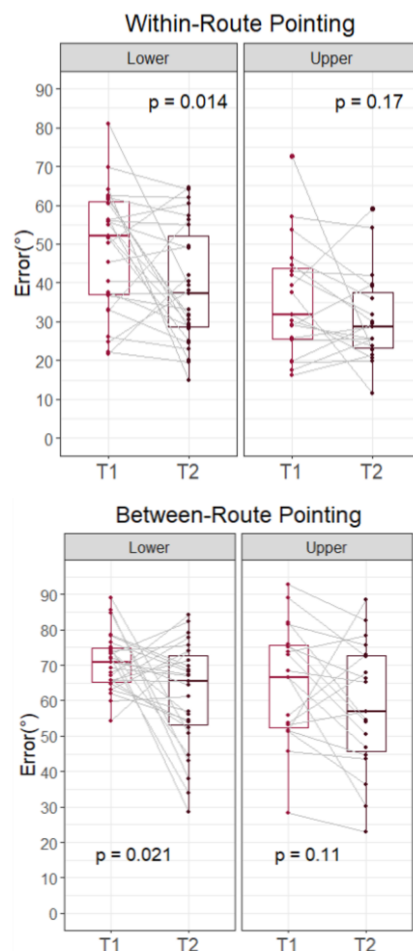
[Masek, L. R., Paterson, S. J., Golinkoff, R. M., Bakeman, R., Adamson, L. B., Owen, M. T., Pace, A., & Hirsh-Pasek, K. \(2020\). Beyond talk: Contributions of quantity and quality of communication to language success across socioeconomic strata. \*Infancy\*, 26](#)

## Navigation Stabilizing in Mid-Childhood

*led by Maria Brucato*

- By age 12, large-scale navigation skills stabilize. That means that, whether kids are good or bad at navigation, they stay that way after age 12!
- Younger children (8 – 12) still show an improvement in skill, shown as a reduction in error in the figures on the right
- However, there is room for intervention, which we hope to test in the future!

Maria Brucato, Alina Nazareth, & Nora S. Newcombe (2022 in press). Longitudinal Development of Cognitive Mapping from Childhood to Adolescence. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*.



# TICL in the News

Dr. Hirsh-Pasek was quoted in a recent *Philadelphia Inquirer* article about the reopening of Smith Playhouse in Fairmount Park!

“We have overstressed kids, stuck in front of screens... We’ve lost touch with the very thing that makes kids, kids — that ability to experiment, explore, and find solutions.”

Read the full article at the link below to find out how Smith Playhouse works to bring play back into our kids’ lives!



*Smith Playhouse. Picture by Monica Herndon, Staff Photographer at the Philadelphia Inquirer.*

<https://www.inquirer.com/columnists/fairmount-park-smith-playhouse-screen-time-kids-20211128.html>

## Contact Us:

Check out our website:

<https://templeinfantlab.com/>  
[www.facebook.com/infantlab/](https://www.facebook.com/infantlab/)

Questions?

Call us: (267) 468- 8610

Email us: [infantlab@temple.edu](mailto:infantlab@temple.edu)

The Temple Infant and Child Lab is co-directed by

Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Ph.D. &  
Nora Newcombe, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology,

1701 N. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

### **Directors:**

Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Ph.D.  
Nora Newcombe, Ph.D.

### **Lab Coordinator:**

Emily Mahon  
Jelani Medford

### **Graduate Students:**

Susan Benear  
Elias Blinkoff  
Katherine Eulau  
Ally Masters  
Kim Nguyen  
Naoya Tani  
Merve Tansan

### **Post-doctoral Researchers:**

Katelyn Fletcher, Ph.D.  
Elliott Johnson, Ph.D.  
Annelise Pesch, Ph.D.  
Rachael Todaro, Ph.D.

### **Visiting Scholars:**

Adalet Baris Gunersel, Ph.D.  
Charlotte Wright, M.Ed., M.S.

Sign up to hear about more kid’s studies at Temple here:  
<https://cphapps.temple.edu/surveys/?s=JE9DLENAM7XCXM97>

# Studies in the Spotlight

Email [kidmemorylab@temple.edu](mailto:kidmemorylab@temple.edu) if you are interested in participating!



## Learning and Lemurs

**Ages: 4 – 7 years**

How do kids understand and remember events? To find out, we're recruiting typically developing children ages 4-7 who have not seen the Netflix television series *All Hail King Julien*. Your child will watch one episode of the animated television show *All Hail King Julien* about the lemur from *Madagascar*, play some games on the computer, and answer some questions about the episode they watched. For this study, you and your child will be compensated with a \$40 gift card and a sticker or small toy.



## Marvelous Moments

**Ages: 4 or 6 years**

How do children learn to remember, and what does that look like in the developing brain? To find out, we are recruiting 4- and 6-year olds to follow over 2 years of their life as they develop and change. At 4, 5, and 6 years, or at 6, 7, and 8 years, your child will make a visit to our lab each year. Sessions will include your child watching cartoons, talking about things they've done recently, playing memory games, and receiving an MRI scan. You and your child will be compensated with a \$50 gift card and your child will receive toys or stickers as well as a picture of their brain!



## Temple Tour

**Ages: 8 – 13 years**

How do children learn and remember new events and environments? To find out, we're recruiting typically developing children ages 8 – 13 for the Temple Tour study. They will learn interesting facts about animals, objects, books, and movies, and then they will answer questions about their experience. If your child participates, they will receive a \$50 Target gift card for completing the full behavioral and MRI scan session, and \$25 for the behavioral session alone (includes gas reimbursement) as well as a small toy.



## Home Sweet Home

**Ages: 3 – 7 years**

How do children apply their learning to new situations? To find out, we're recruiting typically developing children ages 3 – 8 for the Home Sweet Home Study. Children will play a fun computer game where they will be asked to learn where different animals live in an imaginary land. You and your child will be compensated with a gift card and your child will get to pick out a toy or sticker!

**Sign up to hear about more kid's studies at Temple here:**  
<https://cphapps.temple.edu/surveys/?s=JE9DLENAM7XCXM97>



# Meet the Co-Directors

**Nora S. Newcombe** is a Laura H. Carnell Professor of Psychology at Temple University. Dr. Newcombe received her PhD from Harvard University. She has received many honors including the William James Fellow Award from APS, and the George Miller Award from APA. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Society of Experimental Psychologists. She has been funded by NSF and NIH continuously for over 20 years. She is interested in children's memory and the intersection of cognitive science and education.



**Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek** is the Stanley and Debra Lefkowitz Professor of Psychology at Temple University. Dr. Hirsh-Pasek received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She has received numerous awards including APA's Bronfenbrenner Award and APS's James McKeen Cattell Award. She is on the Steering Committee for The Boston Children's Museum and Disney Junior. Her book, *Einstein never used Flashcards*, won the prestigious Books for Better Life Award. Dr. Hirsh-Pasek is a frequent spokesperson for her field appearing in the NYTimes, NPR and in international television outlets. Her research examines the development of early language and literacy as well as the role of play in learning.



We are so excited to celebrate our doctoral students who graduated in the spring of 2020 and we were even more thrilled to host an informal hooding ceremony this past August! Learn more about where they are now below.

### **Natalie Evans**



Natalie is currently a postdoctoral research associate working with Dr. Jamie Jirout at the University of Virginia. She works on projects investigating how educational experiences impact the development of curiosity in elementary school aged children and undergraduate engineering students.



### **Lillian Masek**



Lillian is currently a postdoctoral researcher working with Dr. Cathie Tamis-LeMonda at New York University. She works on projects investigating infant and caregiver behavior in the home.

### **Molly Scott**



Molly is currently a postdoctoral research fellow working with Dr. Kimberly Noble at Teachers College, Columbia University. She works on the Baby's First Years project, studying how reducing poverty could positively impact families and early childhood development.

