

A huge thank you to YOU - our families and children!
We could not do the work we do or publish our research findings without
your generous participation throughout the year.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Where children teach adults.

Get Ready to Celebrate
International Day of Play with

Live and learn

June 11, 2025

**Live, Learn, Play: The Future
of Affordable Housing
Developments**

10–11:30 AM • 2000 Ridge Ave

**Play the Sharswood Way:
Celebrating Neighborhood**
3–5 PM • 2045 Master St

**Super Play:
Unleashing Learning Through
Heroes & Imagination**
6–8 PM • 2137 N 15th St

[Click here for details!](#)



Putting the Science of Learning into Action

Oxford University's Department of Education
featured **Kathy Hirsh-Pasek** in a public seminar
on putting the science of learning into action.

The “factory model” of education that dominates classrooms around the world is outdated. It neither prepares students to thrive in the 21st century nor does it address systemic inequalities. Hirsh-Pasek puts forth the argument for a developmentally appropriate pedagogy built on the latest science of learning while offering a children rich curricular approach to learning. The model uses a 3-part equation that is based on science of learning to realize this goal. We start with cultural contexts that embrace community funds of knowledge that children bring to our classrooms. We then add the “how” of learning such that if we teach in ways that capitalize on how brains learn, children are more likely to retain and transfer their knowledge. Third, we add “what” the children need to know to thrive in a world dotted with Chat GPT, and with workplaces that will later require them to expand their repertoire of outcomes to include a breadth of skills, 6Cs — collaboration, communication, content, critical thinking, creative innovation, and confidence (grit and growth mindset).

[Watch here.](#)



Teaching in the way human brains learn

First Results From Active Playful Learning

When you teach in the way that human brains learn, classrooms are transformed for the benefit of teachers and students alike. The [Active Playful Learning \(APL\) Project](#) team published a [working paper](#) with the Brookings Institution in May that presented early findings on how this change occurred in 43 kindergarten and 1st-grade classrooms across California, Virginia, Texas, and Illinois during the Project's pilot

year in 2023-24. APL harnesses insights from the science of learning to promote an array of evidence-informed instructional principles, specific teaching practices, and student outcomes in classrooms by coaching participating teachers. Data presented in the paper showed that teachers gave students more opportunities to make decisions about their own learning, collaborate with their classmates, and contribute to classroom discussions over time. Similarly, AAPL's coaches shared that their teachers demonstrated particular growth in their promotion of student collaboration and active, hands-on and minds-on learning. These initial results are very promising, so stay tuned for further updates from the APL Project as their work continues!



Down Under with Kathy Hirsh-Pasek

Kathy Hirsh-Pasek spent Spring 2025 on sabbatical in Sydney, Australia as the Anne Cutler Fellow at Western Sydney University. The University is a stronghold for those who study child language development and playful learning. In her invited talk on Active Playful Learning, Kathy brought her research on education in and out of school to the scholars at the University. A workshop on Playful Learning Landscapes (now in 22 cities in 13 countries) brought members of the Sydney

Counsel and Parks Department to speak about transforming areas of Sydney into playful learning hubs. Finally, in a public talk to 2000 members of the MindChamps early childhood staff, Kathy spoke to people in Australia, Singapore and Indonesia about how to best apply lessons from the science of learning and playful learning into classroom practice. When she was not giving lectures, it was easy to feast on the gorgeous coastline vistas and the incredible Asian cuisine.



Coming Home to a Foreign Land

A poignant OpEd by Kathy Hirsh-Pasek (3/26/25) was published in the Philadelphia Inquirer upon her return from Australia. [Coming home to a foreign land](#)



More Happenings **at the Lab**

Congrats!



Dr. Annelise Pesch, a postdoctoral researcher in the lab, will begin a new position this Fall as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Pesch's work investigates the role of trust in Children's learning from

others, and in ways to build trust through play. She utilizes community-centered methods to translate her work to practice. Good luck Annelise! UT Dallas is lucky to have you.

Our youngest member of the TICL family has just recently arrived. Postdoctoral Research Fellow, **Samantha Cohen**, gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Welcome to the world Olivia and congratulations Samantha!



Dr. Ji Young Lee, visiting scholar, married Jin Ho Yun in April. Ji Young and Jin Ho traveled back to South Korea for the nuptials. We are so happy for them.

Dr. Kaitlyn Campbell, successfully defended her dissertation this past April. Her research investigated early sensory integration through infant grasping videos and a neural measure that reveals how the infant hand is represented in the brain. Congratulations Dr. Kaitlyn!



This upcoming summer, graduate student **Naoya Tani** will be an adjunct instructor at Temple University's Japan campus, located in Kyoto. During his time there, he will be teaching "Foundations of Developmental Psychology." Congratulations Naoya!

Elijah Cyr graduated with from Temple University. Elijah will continue his work this summer on the 6Cs Go to College study with Dr. Elias Blinkoff. He plans to apply to law school. Best of luck Elijah.



Pictured is **Dr. Nora Newcombe**, where she attended the National Academy of Sciences Induction back in April 2025.



Our study **Marvelous Moments** just wrapped up its second year of data collection!

This study focuses on how 4-7 year olds learn to remember.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the families who took part, we truly appreciate your time and support.

We're excited to dive into the data and see what meaningful insights come out of it.



Findings from the Lab

Rethinking Memory & Navigation How we find our way and remember it too!

Former doctoral student **Kim Nguyen** recently had her work, conducted during her time at Temple, accepted for publication in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

This [paper](#) challenges the idea that episodic memory (how one recalls experiences) and spatial navigation rely on two overlapping cognitive systems rather than distinct ones.

This highlights that memory for events and space are intertwined, redefining how we understand real world cognition as kids grow up.



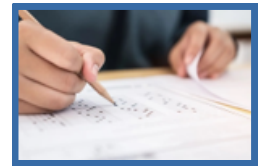
BROOKINGS

Two new publications from the Brookings Institution



We All Need A Little More Recess (January 2025)

A commentary by **Karyn Allee** (Mercer University) and **Kathy Hirsh-Pasek** on the importance of recess for young and old. Read about it [here](#).



What Does High Quality Instruction Look Like?

This [commentary](#) by **Elias Blinkoff**, **Natalie Evans**, **Sophia Espinoza**, and **Kathy Hirsh-Pasek** offers some insight on how to respond to the US Department of Education's report card for American schools.

Putting the Power Back in Play

Play is essential for children's development, but how do we truly facilitate it in today's world? In the wake of the pandemic, many children are struggling to reconnect with the power of play. In this insightful webinar, **Kathy Hirsh-Pasek** joins Trauma Counselor, **Anthony (Ant) Toombs Sr.**, and **Robin Meisner** of the Boston Children's Museum to explore how to create meaningful spaces for play and harness its potential to support learning, emotional well-being, and overall development. From fostering creativity to building resilience, we'll dive into practical strategies that empower kids and early childhood educators to rediscover the joy of play. Listen [here](#).





GEO-OWL ACADEMY



**TITLE OF THE RESEARCH STUDY:
GEOSPATIAL EXPLORATION & OUTDOOR WORLD LEARNING**

At the Temple University Research in Spatial Cognition Lab, we are interested in how kids learn about and navigate the world around them. Using virtual environments and real-world navigation tasks, we study how kids move through unfamiliar spaces and solve spatial problems.

Ages 11 to 14

- ✓ Explore native bird and bug species!
- ✓ Join scavenger hunts around Temple Ambler Campus!
- ✓ Solve real world environmental problems!
- ✓ Engage in Geographic Information Systems projects!

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AT TEMPLE AMBLER CAMPUS**

**SUMMER 2025 CAMP DATES
STILL AVAILABLE**

June 23 - June 27, 2025

July 7- July 11, 2025

*Planning Ahead for 2026?
We're already collecting interest for
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This study is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Attendance in the camp requires participation in the research study. The camp is offered at no cost.
This information is approved by Temple University for public display and is associated with project #31505



Our Directors



Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Ph.D., a Professor of Psychology at Temple University, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute and a Visiting Professor at Oxford University, was declared a “scientific entrepreneur” from the American Association of Psychology. Writing 17 books and 250+ publications, she served as President of the International Congress for Infant Studies, was on the Governing Board of the Society for Research in Child Development and is on the board of Zero to Three. Her Einstein Never Used Flashcards won the Book for a Better Life Award in 2003 with her *Becoming Brilliant* (2016) reaching the NYTimes Best Sellers List in education. Her newest book *Making Schools Work* (Nov. 2022) is the first education book co-written with teachers, administrators and scientists. It already sparked a national grant to re-imagine education. Hirsh-Pasek won awards from every psychological and educational society for her basic science and translational work designed to bridge basic science and educational impact. She also was honored with the Simms Mann Award and the Association of Children’s Museum Great Friend to Kids Award. She is a founding member of the Latin American School for Educational and Cognitive Neuroscience, she spearheaded a global network of scientists devoted to educational science. Co-founder of the global Learning Science Exchange Fellowship (LSX), she brings together scientists, journalists, policy makers and entertainers, to put learning science in the hands of educators. In 2021, she was elected as a member of the National Academy of Education. Her initiative Playful Learning Landscapes re-imagines cities and public squares as places with science infused designs that enhance academic and social opportunities. Her recent, initiative, Active Playful Learning, brings together leading scientists and educators to re-imagine early education in the US. Hirsh-Pasek frequently comments for the press (e.g. NPR, NYT) and blogs for the Brookings Institution.

Nora Newcombe, Ph.D., is a Laura H. Carnell Professor of Psychology at Temple University. Dr. Newcombe was educated at Antioch College, where she graduated with a major in psychology in 1972 and at Harvard University, where she received her Ph.D. in Psychology and Social Relations in 1976. She taught previously at Penn State University. Her research in cognition and cognitive development has centered on spatial cognition and on episodic memory, along with translational work on STEM education. She served as the PI of the NSF-funded Spatial Intelligence and Learning Center (SILC) from 2006-2018, headquartered at Temple and involving Northwestern, the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania as primary partners. Dr. Newcombe currently serves as Past President of the International Mind Brain Education Society (IMBES), and as Editor of *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science.

Honors include the Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award from the Society for Research in Child Development, the William James Fellow Award from APS, the Howard Crosby Warren Medal from the Society of Experimental Psychologists, the George Miller Award and the G. Stanley Hall Awards from APA, the Award for Distinguished Service to Psychological Science, also from APA. She has received three mentor awards, from Women in Cognitive Science, APA Division 7, and APS. She is a fellow of four divisions of the American Psychological Association (General, Experimental, Developmental, and Psychology of Women), of the Association for Psychological Science, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin and the University of Otago. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Society of Experimental Psychologists.



Thank you to our sponsors: **The LEGO Foundation, William Penn Foundation, Vanguard Strong Start for Kids, NSF, The Bezos Foundation, Stan & Debra Lefkowitz, NIH**

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