NeuDLL News

Newsletter of the Neurodevelopmental Disorders Language & Learning Lab

At the University of Washington

Introduction to the Lab

The focus of the Neurodevelopmental Language and Learning (NeuDLL) lab is the development of language abilities in children with neurodevelopmental disorders. Our mission is to investigate the consequences of neurodevelopmental disorders on language development. The goal of this research is to understand how children develop skills related to language and communication so that those skills may eventually be supported to allow each individual to develop to his or her full potential.

Noodle Word Search (NueDLL.. Noodle.. Get it?)

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

farmers market, friends, splash, pike place, explore, parks, mountains, family, hike, sunshine, museum, ferry

NeuDLL Collaboration with MIND Institute at UC Davis:

Measuring Spoken Language in People with Autism Spectrum Disorder

UC Davis MIND Institute researchers, headed by Leonard Abbeduto, Ph.D. have teamed up with University of Washington and University of Minnesota to study methods for measuring spoken language in individuals with autism spectrum disorder. This study, which is funded by the Simons Foundation for Autism Research and the National Institutes of Health, will utilize expressive language sampling –or ELS—to analyze language samples in order to quantify different aspects of language ability and how language is used. The method captures real-world performance and language impairments that are unique to specific conditions. The data will allow validation of ELS use for people with autism spectrum disorder and may be of use to researchers who design studies to test treatments. Comparisons can be made on how ELS performance differs among people of different ages, genders, severity, and IQs.

For more information on this study, please visit: https://sphsc.washington.edu/research-labs/neurodevelopmental-disorders-language-and-learning-lab/research

Participate in research on how children learn language!

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, 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.

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NeuDLL Neurodevelopmental Disorders Language & Learning Lab

4131 15th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105 • (206) 685-2202 • neudll@uw.edu • https://sphsc.washington.edu/research-labs/neurodevelopmental-disorders-language-and-learning-lab/about-us

Explore Seattle! Looking for a place to relax and enjoy the view near campus? Look no further!

Gasworks Park – This is a gorgeous public park overlooking Lake Union and the downtown skyline. The Burke Gilman Trail leads from the UW campus to the park, which is an easy and enjoyable walk or bike ride.

Magnuson Park: Just a short drive from campus are 4 miles of walking trails along beautiful Lake Washington. The park's "historic district" features more than 20 brick and metal structures built in the 1930s and 1940s.
7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

The Four Columns at Sylvian Grove Theatre – Visit a part of UW history and enjoy a quiet space for a picnic! Located next to the Computer Science and Engineering Building. On the way, enjoy the scenic Rainier Vista.

Rainer Vista - Just a short walk from UW Speech and Hearing Clinic is a gorgeous fountain and—if you're lucky — a perfect view of Mt. Rainer.

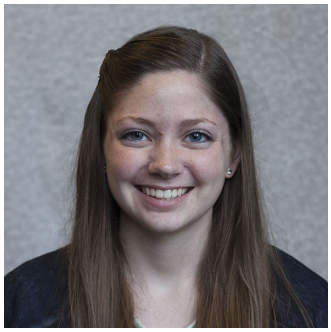
Q & A With Former Graduate Student Caroline Vandewater

Tell me about yourself:

CV:I grew up in a rural community in South Central Wisconsin and went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an undergrad. I took an initial interest in Psychology and English but eventually landed at the door of the Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders, which felt like the perfect combination of both. When I couldn't pin down one major, I decided to tackle all three and squeezed in a semester abroad in London before being accepted into the UW Core SLP graduate program.

Why were you interested in working in this lab?

CV: The lab's focus aligned closely with my clinical interests - autism spectrum disorders and child language. It also gave me the opportunity to put all those psychology research methods classes to good use.



What are you hoping to see/learn out of the NeuDLL lab?

CV: I've appreciated being able to get an in-depth look at language learning and work collaboratively on large-scale projects that extend beyond the constraints of our typical 10-week clinical rotations and classes. Working directly with the kids and families has been really rewarding too!

What do you do in your time outside of the lab?

I enjoy playing piano and exploring the Pacific Northwest!

Meet the Principal Investigator: Training and Background Experience

When prompted to name her favorite research article, Dr. Kover selected, "Language Development in Infants and Toddlers with Fragile X Syndrome: Change Over Time and the Role of Attention," published in 2015 in the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. She explains, "This paper was the result of a collaboration with Dr. Jane Roberts, an expert in early development in children with fragile X syndrome, including the areas of attention, anxiety, and physiological arousal. Dr. Roberts is a Professor of Psychology at the University of South Carolina. This work was also exciting because it addresses very early language development in children with FXS, about which we know very little. It was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Roberts and to contribute to the literature on fragile X syndrome!"

The study investigated early language abilities in infants and toddlers with FXS. Findings revealed that aspects of early visual attention predicted later language ability. This is important in the realm of neurodevelopmental disorders because atypical visual attention is an aspect of the FXS phenotype, which carries implications for early language development and especially vocabulary acquisition.

Contact Dr. Kover

University of Washington / Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences
1417 NE 42nd Street, Seattle, WA 98105 / (206) 543-7888 / skover@uw.edu