

Fall Newsletter 2014



We would like to thank all the parents, schools, preschools, and child-centered organizations for participating in our research this past year! The CUB lab is ready to begin its third year at the University of Mississippi working with children and families in the community to learn more about child development. We could not do any of our work without your support, which has enabled us to make great progress learning about how children's thoughts and social development are changing from toddlerhood to the school-age years.

We would like to share some of our findings from our recent studies and new studies we are kicking off in the CUB Lab. Thank you again for your participation and we look forward to another exciting year!

Meet the CUB Lab

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Crystine Phillips

Madolyn Statler

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Thoughtful Friends Update

In this project we work with 7- to 10-years-olds to examine how their self control behavior (i.e., executive functions) are related to their friendships. To examine this, we ask children about their quality of friendship with their best friends as well as play games to look at their ability to solve problems (e.g. sorting cards by shape and color) or delaying gratification (e.g. waiting longer for a larger reward). This project helps us get a better understanding of how children's abilities to solve problems helps their relationship quality with their friends. Though the study is ongoing we have begun to see differences in which type of executive functions lead to better quality friendships between boys and girls. We are now looking forward to completing this study within the next year and sharing the full results with you soon!

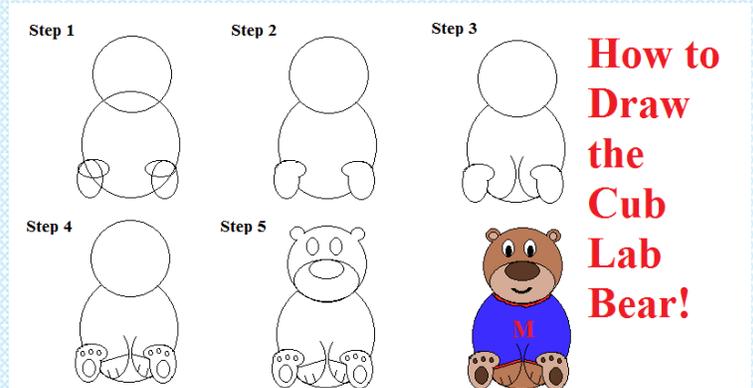
Learning to Control Behavior

In this ongoing study we are working with 18- and 24-month-olds examining the development of controlled behavior (i.e., executive functions). To study executive functions we look at children's abilities to solve fun problems and wait across different situations (e.g., waiting to play with a fun toy). We are particularly interested in how controlled behavior is linked to communication and language, which we look at through children's abilities to imitate, help, and share joint attention. We have really enjoyed working with your children in this age group and are currently still running this study. If you have any interest in being a part of this study, please contact us in the CUB Lab. We hope to share our findings with you soon!

2014 CUB Lab Spring Open House

This past February we opened up the CUB Lab for our first Winter Open House to share some of the current projects and results we have coming out of the CUB lab. Thank you to all the children and parents who came to support us in this event! We had a great time providing hands-on experience with our research and playing fun games with your families. This past open house included a scavenger hunt, CUB Lab bowling, make your own bear ears, and many other CUB lab and cognitive themed games. We also had a parent resource packet for parents to take home, related to ways you can practice what we research at home (e.g., self-control, memory, and numerical cognition). We plan for next spring's Open House to be even bigger and better, so look for an invitation in your email or email us at cublab@olemiss.edu to be added to a physical mailing list!

Activities:



Check us out or enroll online!



What does a visit entail?

We enjoy learning about child development by working with your children in the CUB Lab and strive to make your visits educational AND fun! Below are a few facts about a CUB Lab visit.

- ⇒ We are happy to accommodate your schedule and can be available on weekdays, evenings, and weekends.
- ⇒ All of our work has been reviewed and is approved by the University of Mississippi's Institutional Review Board.
- ⇒ We structure our projects as games and stories, so children have fun while participating.
- ⇒ Children work with trained research associates who have undergone research training and background checks.
- ⇒ You are welcome to stay with your child during the entire visit.
- ⇒ Babysitters for additional children are available.
- ⇒ We offer free parking, snacks, drinks, and toys and parent workshops for participation!



Thanks to all the schools, child care centers, and child-friendly organizations for your help with this work!

First Baptist Health Fair, First Baptist Weekday Education Center, Excel by 5, Kid's College, Lafayette Elementary School, Lafayette Public Library, Oxford Park Commission, Oxford WeeCycle, North Oxford Creative Learning Center, Square Books