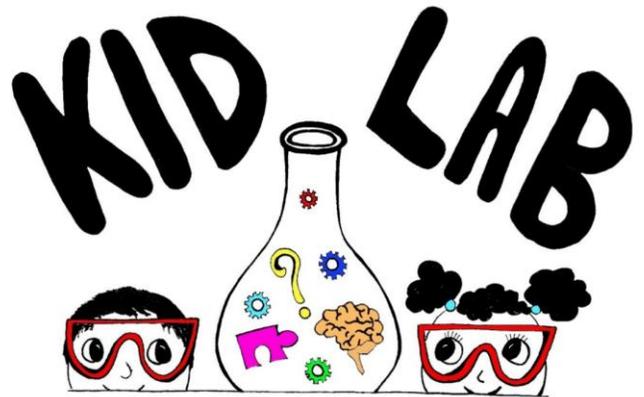


# KNOWLEDGE IN DEVELOPMENT LAB NEWS

This is an update on research projects that have been conducted at the Knowledge in Development Lab over the past year. We were very excited to celebrate the lab's fifth anniversary this spring.

Faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students conduct research studies in order to gain a better understanding of how children process information, how they seek out and evaluate knowledge throughout their development, and how their thought processes develop. The lab works with children between the ages of 3 and 10. A visit to our lab involves one session, scheduled by the parent, where children complete a game or activity with our friendly researchers.

At the end of each session, children receive prizes, including passes for the [Rauch Planetarium](#) on the UofL campus. When a study is complete, we analyze the differences in thinking between children of different ages and we publish the results so that they are available to other scientists, parents, and educators.



You can contact us by calling 502-852-0718, sending an email to [louisvillekidlab@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillekidlab@gmail.com), or signing up at <http://louisvillekidstudies.org>.

“Like” our Facebook page ([Louisville KID Lab](#)) to view updates about child development research and our lab.

Finally, if you have moved, changed your phone number or contact information, or simply have questions or concerns, please let us know!

**GET  
INVOLVED!**

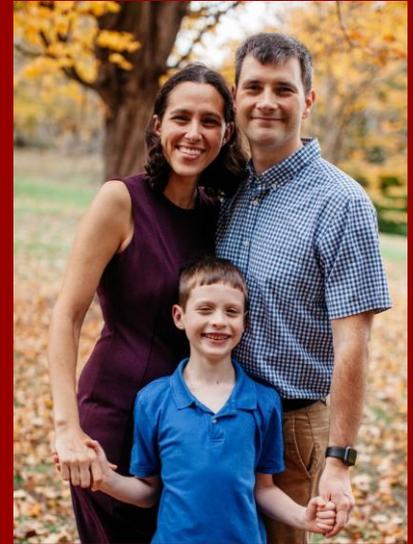
# How Children Learn About Science

Our first series of studies looking at children's judgments of scientific explanations and their interest in learning about science is now complete! The results showed that children ages 7 to 10 notice when they heard a scientific explanation that is missing a part, and that they try to get more information to fill the gap in their knowledge. We also found that having background knowledge about science helps children to understand whether they are hearing a strong or weak explanation. Parents and educators can help support children's learning by providing them with resources to learn about science and find answers to their questions, like helping them look up questions in books or on the internet. Our next step for this project is to take what we have learned in the lab and apply it to improve children's learning in their science classrooms!

# How Children Think About Others

As adults, we understand that people hold many different social roles at the same time. For example, you can be a mom and a daughter simultaneously. However, research in the KID Lab suggests that children often believe that people can only hold one social role at a time. This tendency is most clear in preschool age children, but even 7- and 8-year-olds are unsure how to think about the complex identities that define people. Our research suggests that highlighting one social role at a time may make it easier for kids to reason about others!

## Meet the lab directors!



**Dr. Judith Danovitch** and **Dr. Nicholas Noles** are professors in the Dept. of Psychological and Brain Sciences. They met while earning their PhDs in Psychology from Yale University. In addition to directing the KID lab together, both Dr. Danovitch and Dr. Noles have been honored as Faculty Favorites by their students at UofL.

When they are not conducting research or teaching, they enjoy reading, traveling all over the world, and spending time with their son.

## Meet the grad students!



**Allison Williams** graduated from Rider University. She currently studies how the media influences children's trust and decision making. In her free time, Allison loves to hang out with her dog and walk around the city!



**Megan Norris** graduated from Appalachian State with her M.A. in Psychology. Her current research interests include preschoolers' categorization abilities. In her free time, Megan enjoys reading and watching sports!

## Developing Scientists Program

Do you have middle/high school students interested in psychology? Check out the Developing Scientists Program! The Developing Scientists Program is a free educational program that makes science fun! Based out of the University of Louisville, participation in this program includes a face to face meeting with graduate students and a tour of The KID Lab and Infant Cognition Lab. Small groups of students will have the opportunity to participate in, watch, and create mock experiments. Participants will also work together to identify and follow the research behind popular media articles.

If you're interested, please contact us at:  
[developingscientistsprogram@gmail.com](mailto:developingscientistsprogram@gmail.com)

Connect with us on social media!

**Facebook:** [Developing Scientists Program](#)

**Instagram:** [developingscientists](#)



## Research Assistant Spotlight

My name is Evonie Daugherty and I have been a Research Assistant in the KID Lab since Fall of 2018. I will be graduating in May 2020 with a major in Biology and a minor in Psychology.

I love working with kids because they are so interesting and fun to interact with. My favorite project to work on in the KID Lab is a study looking at the influence of cartoon characters on children's understanding of reality.

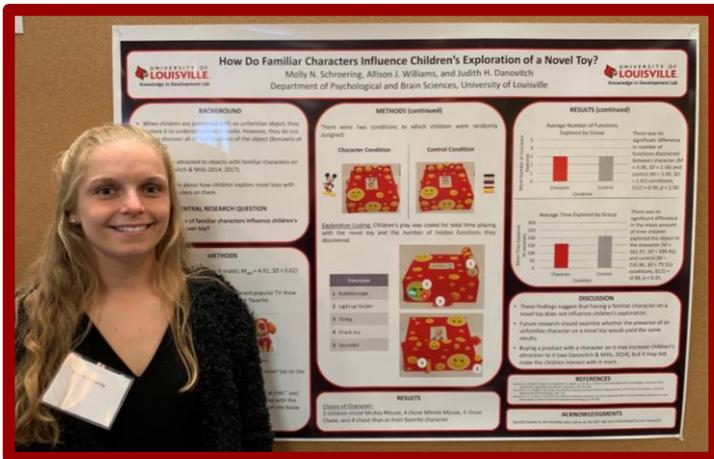
This study is one of my favorites because it is the first study I learned to run on my own. Also, the questions always get some interesting responses! After graduation, I hope to continue my education with a degree in Physical Therapy.



The KID Lab congratulates **Dr. Catherine McDermott** on defending her dissertation and receiving her doctorate this spring. Dr. McDermott has been a graduate student in the KID Lab since 2015. While in the lab, she has published her work and presented her research at multiple national conferences. She was recently awarded the Psychology Department’s Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award and she is one of the co-founders and directors of the Developing Scientists Program, which introduces young girls to the field of psychology. Dr. McDermott will be continuing her research as a postdoctoral fellow at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. We wish Dr. McDermott the best of luck with her future research and thank her for all of her contributions to the KID Lab!

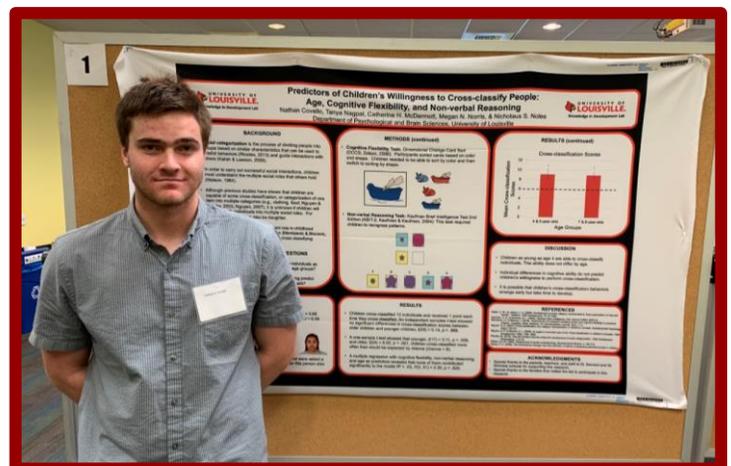


# Undergraduate Research Day



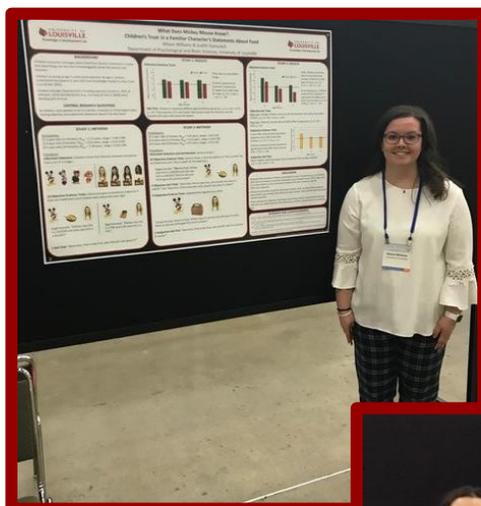
Undergraduate student Molly Schroering (pictured above) presented research on how the presence of familiar characters influences children’s play at the annual University of Louisville Undergraduate Research Symposium in April 2019.

Undergraduate student Nathan Covello (pictured below) presented research on children’s reasoning about individuals who hold multiple social roles at the annual University of Louisville Undergraduate Research Symposium in April 2019.

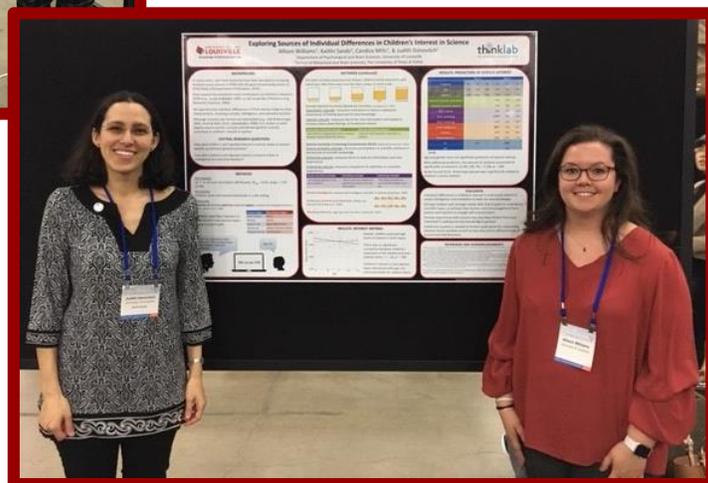


# Where our Research has Taken Us

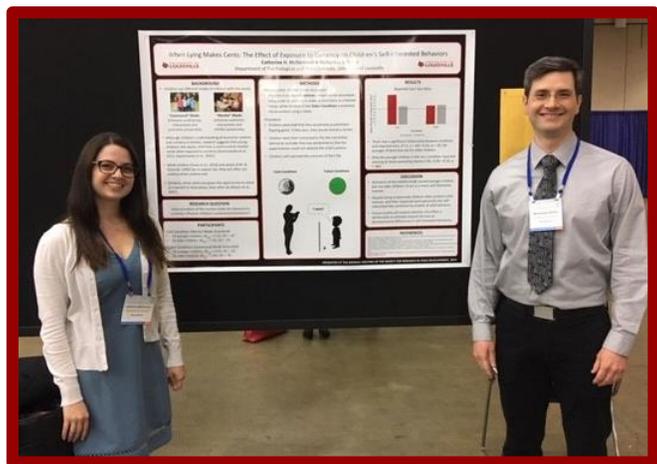
Graduate student Catherine McDermott and KID Lab director Nicholas Noles (pictured below) presented research on how exposure to money influences children's behavior at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial conference in Baltimore, MD.



Graduate student Allison Williams (pictured to the left), presented research about children's trust in their favorite character vs. a knowledgeable adult at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial conference in Baltimore, MD.



Graduate student Allison Williams and KID Lab director Judith Danovitch (pictured above), presented research on the factors that predict children's interest in science at the Society for Research in Child Development biennial conference in Baltimore, MD.



## A Special Thank You!!

We thank the following schools and organizations for allowing us to visit and conduct our research this year:

Kenneth Israel Preschool  
Newburg KinderCare

St. Gabriel School  
St. Nicholas School

We also extend a big thank you to the parents and children who visited our lab on the UofL campus. Our research would not be possible without your support!