

# 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 6 months.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the KID Lab has looked a little different lately! Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students are still conducting 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. Typically, this research is conducted in our lab at the University of Louisville or at local schools. But, because of the pandemic, we have moved our research entirely online.

An online appointment with our lab involves one 30-minute session, scheduled by the parent, where children ages 4-10 complete a game or activity with our friendly researchers over Zoom! At the end of each session, children receive prizes, including a KID Scientist Certificate and a \$5 Amazon Gift Card. 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.



To participate in a study, e-mail [louisvillekidlab@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillekidlab@gmail.com) or sign up at <http://louisvillekidstudies.org>.

“Like” our Facebook page ([Louisville KID Lab](#)) or follow us on Instagram ([@louisvillekidlab](#)) to view updates about child development research and our lab.

Be sure to let us know if you changed your contact information, or simply have questions about what we do!

Get Involved!

# Learning about Loyalty

Learning to be a good friend and group member is an important part of growing up. Showing support for and commitment to people and institutions is how we build relationships with other people. Taking a friend's side in an argument or cheering for the same team are important experiences that show that we are the same, that show our loyalty. Understanding how to recognize and show loyalty is an important part of growing up. The KID Lab is studying loyalty by asking children about how individuals will react when forced to show their loyalty to people who are like them or to authority figures. Young children, 3- to 5-year-olds, focus on group loyalty, expecting people to side consistently with group members more often than authority figures, and 6- to 8-year-olds were unsure what people would do. Older children, ages 9 and 10, responded in the same way as adults. They expected people to show loyalty to group members or authorities in a way that was most beneficial to the person. These results show that children have adult-like ideas about when, and to whom, to show their loyalty.



## Meet the lab directors!



**Dr. Judith Danovitch** and **Dr. Nicholaus 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 graduate 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 investigates how children learn about race, gender, and social power. In her free time, Megan enjoys reading and watching sports!

# Hey Alexa, do kids trust voice-assistants?

Children see and interact with digital voice-assistants like Alexa or Siri at home and in their classrooms. But do they believe what those devices say? A study in our lab explored if children trust statements given by a digital voice-assistant or a person on a video call. Children ages 4-8 saw a researcher ask questions of either a digital voice-assistant named "Anu" or a friend named "Heather" on a video call. After hearing the voice-assistant or person answer each question, and children said whether they believed that the answer they heard was correct. The questions were about historical or scientific facts, like what the weather is like in Honolulu or what a jicama is. There were also personal questions about the researcher, like what her favorite color is.

We found that older children believed that the voice-assistant gave more accurate answers to scientific and historical questions, and that the person on the video call would be better at answering questions about their friend. Younger children had the opposite opinion! They thought that the voice-assistant would know personal information about the researcher, and the friend on the video call would know more about history and science.



So, even though 4- and 5-year-olds know HOW to ask Alexa a question, they may still need help from parents and teachers figuring out when voice-assistants are good sources of information!

# Research Assistant Spotlight

Rebekah Cook is graduating in December 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in creative writing. She has always been interested in working with kids, and the KID lab provided her with an opportunity to get formal experience working with children in a research setting. Rebekah is currently completing a psychology

honors thesis in the KID Lab, many of which she tested online using new research tools such as Zoom. This year, Rebekah received the Virginia B. Seely Scholarship for Outstanding Psychology Majors. She plans to continue her pursuit of higher education by applying to doctoral programs in psychology.

“Working at the KID lab has allowed me to make the most out of my time at UofL and has really been a rewarding experience.”



**Lauren Giroard** graduated from New York University with her M.A. Her current research interests include how children use technology. In her free time, Lauren enjoys reading and doing escape rooms.

## Welcome new graduate student, Kriss-Ann!



**Kriss-Ann Gayle** graduated from Penn State University with a B. S. in Psychology. Her current research interests include studying how children perceive group dynamics and equality. Kriss-Ann likes to read, spend time with her cat, and watch movies.

## Recent publications

Check out the recent publications from the KID Lab! If you have any questions about this research or would like a copy of an article, please email us at [Louisvillekidlab@gmail.com](mailto:Louisvillekidlab@gmail.com)

[Children's belief in purported events: When claims reference hearsay, books, or the internet. \*Journal of Experimental Child Psychology.\*](#)

[Children's selective information sharing based on the recipient's role. \*Journal of Genetic Psychology.\*](#)

[Exploring Sources of Individual Differences in Children's Interest in Science. \*Mind, Brain, and Education.\*](#)

# I loved participating with the KID Lab and want to do more....

If your child loves participating in our research, please considering helping other labs around the country. Developmental researchers have come together to create a website where you can find many more studies your children can participate in from the comfort of your home.



Please visit [childrenhelpingscience.com](https://childrenhelpingscience.com) for more exciting studies.

## A Special Thank You!

We extend a big thank you to the parents and children who made online appointments with our lab. Our research would not be possible without your support!

# Explore With Us- A Secret Message Puzzle

Hidden in this word search are words that can tell you about the research in this newsletter!

Can you find them all to reveal a secret message at the end?

Find all of the words in the list, and then place the unused letters in the blanks below, starting with the first unused letter.

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| WORKER     |          |           |