**INFANT LEARNING PROJECT** 

## Developments

Volume 2, Issue 2 June 2010

## **Current News:**



# Inside this issue:

Current News	1
CCF Updates	1
Current Projects	1
Other-Race Effect	2
Our Lab Students	2
New Babies!	2

## **Current Projects:**

- Face **Discrimination** Study: 3-4 and 8 months
- Other-Race **Training Study:** 6 and 9 months

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$ 

- ID Faces Study: 6 months
- Facial Expression Study: 6 and 10 months

#### **ICIS 2010**

Dr. Melanie Spence, Kate Shepard, and Lindsey Collins attended the International Conference on Infant Studies in Baltimore, MD, in March 2010. We had the opportunity to present findings from our research, including results from Dr. Kristin Atchison's dissertation work presented in a poster titled "Development of Infant-Directed Speech Categorization: Effects of Facial-Vocal Synchrony." Dr. Atchison, Dr. Spence and Kate authored a talk presented by Dr. Spence at a face processing symposium, titled "The Impact of Faces on Infants' Categorization of Infant-Directed Speech: Change from 4 to 6 Months." Read more about the conference hosted by the International Society on Infant Studies at www.isisweb.org.

### **CCF** Lecture

Last month, Dr. Spence presented a talk titled, "Learning About the World: An Infant's Perspective" at the Center for Children and Families' spring lecture series on Raising Healthy Infants. Her talk focused on the importance of perceptual, social, and motor development during the infant's first year of life. To read more about the lecture series and to view videos of the lectures (to be posted), visit: ccf.utdallas.edu/news/ lectures2010.html

#### MetroMoms Guest Speaker

In March, Dr. Spence was invited to present information on infant development to a local moms group called MetroMoms. She appreciated the opportunity to share her research with the community. Read more about the group at: www.metroplexbaby.com/ MetroMoms.htm

#### **Graduation Announcement**

We would like to congratulate Lindsey Collins on receiving her B.S. in Psychology. Lindsey will begin the Masters program in Psychological Sciences in the fall. She continues to work in our lab on her home -training study, which looks at 6- and 9-month-olds' ability to tell the difference between faces of a different race. Read more about the "other-race effect" on p. 2. Congratulations, Lindsey!



## 🕏 Center for Children and Families: Updates

#### ★ The CCF has announced two new additions to their website:

**News You Can Use:** This blog presents short summaries of the latest ★ developmental research and its implications for children and parents. http://ccf.utdallas.edu/blog/

★ **Research Opportunities:** Visit this webpage to find out which research projects are currently looking for child participants.

http://ccf.utdallas.edu/vision/ResearchProjectsSeekingChildParticipants.html \*\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\* ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ . ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆  $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$ 

## Infant Learning Project



bbs.utdallas.edu/ilp

## The Other-Race Effect:

Previous research has shown that adults are typically better at telling the difference between faces that share their race compared to faces from a different race. Unlike adults, young infants can easily tell the difference between faces regardless of their race. By 9 months, infants become very good at recognizing faces from their own race, but they are less skilled at telling the difference between faces from different races; this is known as the *other-race effect*. Research suggests the otherrace effect is due to a lack of experience with faces from other races. For example, a baby growing up in a mostly Asian environment has limited experience with Caucasian faces and becomes very familiar with Asian faces. At 6 months, the baby may be able to tell apart faces from non-Asian races, but by 9 months, the baby may only be able to tell apart Asian faces.

## Our Lab Students: Summer 2010

We are happy to welcome Sarah Salomon to our lab. She is currently a student in the Masters program in Psychological Sciences. Sarah also teaches at a private school in Addison, Texas. Welcome to our lab, Sarah!

- Lindsey Collins, B.S.
- Kaia Wakamiya, B.S.
- Sarah Salomon, B.S.
- Kate Shepard, M.S., CCC-SLP

## Congratulations to our Lab Grads!

Two of our Ph.D. graduates welcomed baby girls into their families in April 2010.

Meredith Touchstone Born April 6, 2010 Proud Parents: Emily & David Big Sister: Leah

Brynn Ivy Atchison Born April 26, 2010 Proud Parents: Kristin & Brad

## **Thank You**

We thank our families for your participation. Without your support, our research would not be possible!

The University of Texas at Dallas is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action university.

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Dallas that, to the extent provided by applicable law, no person, including students, faculty, staff and temporary workers, shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by the university on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sex, veteran status, sexual orientation or disability.