

Play Study Newsletter

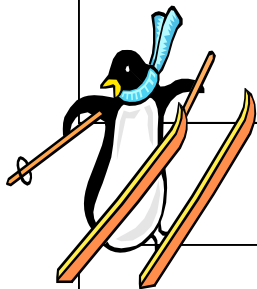
Winter 2009

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- Research Projects -

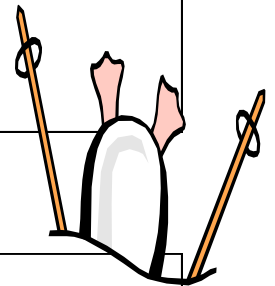
UPCOMING PROJECT

Sara (Wonderlich) Biebl, a child clinical psychology graduate student who works in the Play Lab, will be beginning her dissertation this spring. Sara is planning a 2nd follow-up study of participants who had previously participated in her Master's thesis project 2 years ago. At that time she looked at how early child play behaviors influence involvement in different kinds of social relationships in adolescence. She hopes the same families will again participate in her Dissertation project. Sara's dissertation study will further examine predictors of victimization in peer relationships. Please look forward to further information about this important and exciting project!



ONGOING PROJECT

Kit Elam, the former Play Lab Coordinator and a graduate student in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences program, is currently conducting his dissertation study which examines memory and the brain through the use of functional imaging. He is recruiting adult twin pairs between the ages of 18 and 35 to participate in his research project. It is anticipated that this study will take approximately one hour. All participants will receive compensation for their time, as well as a picture of their brain to keep. If you are a twin between 18 and 35, or know a set of twins between these ages that may be interested in participating in this study, please call Kit at (618) 453-5490. You can also reach him by e-mail at kelam@siu.edu.



- People & Contributions -

WELCOME

We are so lucky to have several new students join the Play Lab this fall and winter. Emily Kieffer, Jordan Flamm, Kendra Otto, Whitney Stephens, Ashly Skaley, and Aislinn Johnson are our newest undergraduate research assistants. Jaimi Mathias is our newest graduate student research assistant and will be testing 1- and 2-year-old twin families. Jaimi is interested in the development of self-esteem in young children. We hope you have the opportunity to meet each of these enthusiastic and dedicated research assistants!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to former Play Lab research assistants Casie Frink and Katie Perkins, who recently graduated from SIU this Fall.

A BIG THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you so much to all of the twins, triplets, and parents who participated in the Play Lab and follow-up studies this year. Your time and cooperation is greatly appreciated and allows us to continue our research on important topics affecting the lives of many families. We have really enjoyed meeting and interacting with each of the families that visit the Play Lab and we wish you a Happy New Year!

We are also very grateful to **McDonalds, Steak & Shake**, and **Burger King** for donating gift certificates to the Play Lab. We were able to give these certificates to families who participated in various research projects this year. **Thank you so much** to these very generous and supportive businesses!

-New Presentations & Findings -

Conference on Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology — Lawrence, Kansas:

This conference is sponsored by the American Psychological Association (APA) and is focused on the presentation of cutting-edge treatment, assessment, and research with children and families. Several of our graduate students presented research projects from the Play Lab at this conference in October of 2008. These projects are briefly described below:

Childhood and Adolescent Sleep Problems: Risk-factors for Relational and Physical Bullying

By Sara (Wonderlich) Biebl, Kristin Bell, and Lisabeth DiLalla, Ph.D.

The focus of this poster was to examine whether sleep problems in childhood and in adolescence predicted bullying behaviors exhibited in adolescence. This study used data collected in the lab at age five and at follow-up in adolescence. Interestingly, findings from this study revealed that chronic, or long-term, sleep difficulties statistically predicted relational bullying among teenagers. In contrast, sleep problems that didn't begin until adolescence were related to physical bullying in adolescence. Few researchers have looked at the association between sleep and bullying behaviors. Through continued research on this topic, we hope to be able to identify youth who are at risk for engaging in bullying behaviors during adolescence and intervene before these types of behaviors become a problem.

Does Mother Aggression Help Explain the Relation between Birth Complications and Child Aggression?

By Sarah Long, Kit Elam, and Lisabeth DiLalla, Ph.D.

This study examined the relation between child aggression and child birth complications, which are physical problems that happen when a baby is born. It was expected that parental aggression might be related to both increased birth complications and more child aggression. However, this study only found a relation between birth complications and child aggression, not with mother aggression, suggesting that early neonatal influences may have important effects on behavior several years later. We will be exploring this further in Sarah's dissertation research.

-Kids Corner -

Answers that Teachers Can't Help But Laugh At:

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Good. Class, who discovered North America?

Class: Maria.

Teacher: Joey, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

Joey: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: That's incorrect.

Joey: Maybe it's wrong but you asked me how I spell it.

Teacher: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Sue, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

Sue: Because George still had the ax in his hand.

Teacher: Millie, give me a sentence starting with "I."

Millie: I is...

Teacher: No, Millie... Always say, "I am..."

Millie: I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

Clyde: No teacher, it's the same dog.

1st Graders' Answers to Well-Known Proverbs:

A teacher presented each of the kids in her 1st grade classroom with the beginning of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder. Here are some of their answers:

The pen is mightier than the ... "pigs."

A penny saved is ... "not much."

Never underestimate the power of ... "termites."

Don't put off to tomorrow what ... "you put on to go to bed."

Children should be seen and not ... "put into time-out or grounded."

If at first you don't succeed ... "get new batteries."

When the blind lead the blind ... "get out of the way."

You get out of something only what you ... "see in the picture on the box."

Two's company, three's ... "a Musketeer."

A bird in the hand ... "is going to poop on you."

Strike while ... "the bug is close."

Don't bite the hand that ... "looks dirty."

A miss is as good as a ... "Mr."

If you lie down with dogs, you'll ... "stink in the morning."