

Hello from the Wisconsin Intelligibility, Speech and Communication (WISC) Lab! So many exciting projects are ongoing and the team continues to grow in leaps and bounds! Out of that excitement comes this newsletter. We are so happy to share this update with our families!



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Waisman Center
1500 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53705

A note from Dr. Hustad

As always, thank you to all the families who continue to give their time and commitment to this project. Your efforts are contributing ground-breaking insight into our understanding of how communication develops in children with cerebral palsy (CP).

We hope this newsletter finds you well! We have enjoyed seeing many of you for visits at lab over these summer months, and we are so glad to announce that Jenna Hughes and Elise Gold are the 2018 recipients of the Friends of the Waisman Center Family Volunteer Award!



Jenna was one of the very first participants enrolled in our study and continues to make annual visits. Jenna has spent over 51 hours engaged in our research protocols and Elise has spent countless hours providing invaluable information via parent report.

Elise recognizes the importance of communication for independence in daily living and for building relationships. As a result of Elise's belief in both Jenna's abilities and Jenna's right to access appropriate assistive tools, Jenna is able to carry out her own roles and responsibilities in school and at home. Currently, at age 16, Jenna is a powerful communicator, using both her own voice and an iPad with the TouchChat application to generate her own messages and relay important information. Jenna loves telling jokes and sharing her favorite music. It has been such a gift to watch Jenna grow and find success! Elise and Jenna will be honored at a reception in August. Congratulations!



Dr. Hustad continues to direct the WISC lab and is enjoying her role as Chair of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at the UW. Her three children also keep her quite busy!

Additional grant funding!

We are excited to announce that the WISC Lab has received additional funding from the National Institutes of Health to continue the Communication Development Project! We look forward to inviting all of our families and participants back for annual visits over the next five years. At this point in time, we have 12 years of data collected from more than 100 participants! There are approximately 80 families who continue to make annual visits, and the participants range in

age from 8 to 18 years. With this additional funding, we will follow communication development in teens and adolescents with CP into adulthood, and have a more complete understanding of speech and language development in CP. On page 3 of this newsletter, you can read about **SEALS**, a new project in which we will observe infants with motor delay or a diagnosis related to CP, with the hope of adding more robust data at the earliest ages. With all of this data, we will improve our understanding of

when speech and language interventions are most effective and ensure that children receive appropriate services.



WISC Lab at the ASHA conference

The WISC Lab has a lot to share at this year's American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conference!



This annual conference brings together researchers, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists with the goal of sharing new findings, educating professionals and students, and improving clinical care. Conferences like ASHA provide an important opportunity for the WISC Lab to share our findings with speech-language pathologists from across the world, and to learn from others who are helping children with developmental disabilities. Thank you for contributing to this important work!

Dr Katie Hustad will be giving an invited talk with Dr. Jordan Green. Dr Green is a professor at the MGH Insti-

tute of Health Professions, and studies speech and swallowing in adults with motor neuron disease. Both Dr. Hustad and Dr. Green use a longitudinal approach in their research; following the same participants over many years. During this talk, Dr Hustad will share findings on what early communication abilities tell us about later speech outcomes **for children**, and she will describe new data that indicate critical time points for providing speech interventions. Dr Green will discuss new diagnostic markers **for adults** with neurodegenerative disorders.

Phoebe Natzke will be presenting information on methods for assessing speech intelligibility in pediatric populations. Accurate measurement is important when determining if a child is a good candidate for speech therapy, and for documenting the effects of speech intervention. Research from the WISC Lab shows that not all assessment methods provide the same results, and it is important

for clinicians to carefully consider which tools to use.

Michael Molinaro will be presenting data on receptive vocabulary growth from a parent-report measure called the MCDI. We used this tool for children with CP who have limited spoken language because it demonstrated their word knowledge, not typically captured by standardized language assessments.

Meredith Braza will be presenting the findings from her senior thesis. She will share about how speech rate and speech intelligibility change in different groups of speakers with and without CP, at ages 5, 6, and 7 years.

As always, you can access all published reports at:

<https://kidspeech.wisc.edu/our-publications/>

Two Exciting New Projects

We are launching two new exciting projects! We are currently recruiting interested families.

SEALS

SEALS (the Study on Emerging Abilities in Language and Speech) is a new project focused communication development in babies and toddlers who have motor delay or a diagnosis related to CP. We are seeking to learn more about very earliest speech and language skills, specifically to determine the age when children with motor delay begin to speak and when their speech abilities are growing the fastest. This information will help us make sure that children receive speech and language therapy when it will help them the most.



Who is eligible?

Children between the ages of 0 and 36 months who have a motor delay or have a diagnosis related to cerebral palsy; and who come from a home where English is the primary language.

What does participation involve?

Home Visits

A certified speech-language pathologist and/or physical therapist will visit 4 times per year. Visits will consist of play-based assessment and observation. Visits will last 60-90 minutes.

Lab Visits

Each participant will visit the WISC Lab at the Waisman Center 4 times per year. Lab visits will involve play-based assessments in a room with professional equipment for recording

audio and video that will allow us to do special analyses of developing speech and language behavior. Mileage, meals, and overnight accommodations will be reimbursed for families traveling 30 or more miles. Families will receive a \$50 honorarium and a small toy at each lab visit. Lab visits will take 1-2 hours.



Online Questionnaires

Parents will complete several online questionnaires before each lab visit. In addition, an online check-in questionnaire will be sent every 2 weeks in between lab and home visits. These will allow us to gather more information about how each child's speech, language, and communication skills are developing.

PROJECT REACH

Project REACH (Receptive Abilities in Children) is a new study aimed at gaining insight into how children with CP learn new words. It can be challenging for children with CP who have more severe motor impairment to demonstrate what they know on standardized testing because these assessments usually require children to manipulate objects or point to pictures. In **Project REACH**, we are interested in using eye gaze as a method to uncover what children with CP know and how they learn. This new method

will help us make sure all children with severe motor impairment receive therapy that is appropriate and will help them REACH their potential!

Who is eligible?

Children between the ages of 36 and 72 months who have a diagnosis of CP; and who come from a home where English is the primary language.

What does participation involve?

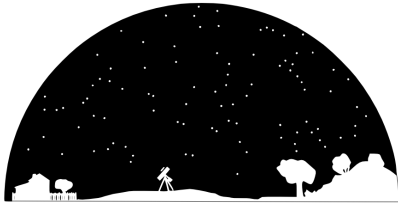
Each child will make 1-2 visits to the Waisman Center. During these visits,

they will participate in games and assessments that teach us about their language learning and their vocabulary. Each visit will last between 60-90 minutes. Parents will also complete a variety of questionnaires. Compensation is provided.



Fresh ideas for your next visit!

- **Madison Metropolitan School District Planetarium**



The MMSD Planetarium is presenting a line-up of 4 of the 5 visible planets! The planetarium shows will teach you how to find these planets in the sky, and will take you on a virtual trip to each planet to see them up close and share some of the latest discoveries. When weather permits, you can participate in using the telescope to see the Moon and planets! Tickets are \$2.50 and go on sale a month in ad-

vance (and should be purchased ahead of time if possible).
<https://planetarium.madison.k12.wi.us>

- **Kids in the Rotunda**

Singers, jugglers, scientists, zoo-keepers and more! With three performances each Saturday, the Kids in the Rotunda series is popular with Madison-area families. Kids in the Rotunda events are held at the Overture Center and accessible seating is available. Kids in the Rotunda performances are FREE and are enjoyed by the whole family. Performers are selected with children 9 and younger in mind.

<http://www.overture.org/programs/kids-in-the-rotunda>

- **UW Badger Sporting Events**

Fall and winter sports at UW include football, volleyball, basketball, hockey, wrestling. Come and cheer on the Badgers and check out the famous UW Marching Band! Accessible seating at Camp Randall and the Kohl Center is available for purchase, or standard tickets may be exchanged for accessible seating (with companion seating).
www.uwbadgers.com/calendar.aspx



Upcoming Waisman Center events

- **Friends of the Waisman Center Reception and Awards. August 14th, 3:15pm**

Join us for an afternoon reception highlighting recent Waisman Center developments and accomplishments and the presentation of student and staff awards and fellowships. Elise Gold and Jenna Hughes will receive the Family Volunteer Award at this event!

- **Waisman Whirl, October 14th**

The fourth annual Waisman Whirl 10k, 5k and 1 mile Run, Walk & Roll for All Abilities will be held on October 14. The event will start and finish at the Waisman Center. All proceeds benefit individuals and families affected by developmental disabilities and neurodegenerative diseases. Early registration ends on September 30.

- **Day with the Experts—CP**

Join us for the annual 'Day with the Experts' for CP in November 2018. This event will include presentations and panel discussions by researchers, clinical providers, and families on relevant topics in CP. Find new resources and connect with other families! This event will be on Saturday in November, from 8am-12pm.

WISC Lab featured in campus news

A recent article in UW News focused on findings from the WISC Lab! The article also offers information on Dr. Hustad's collaboration with Dr. Jenny Saffran for Project REACH. Check out the article at this link, or click the QR code!

<https://news.wisc.edu/study-offers-first-look-at-how-children-with-cerebral-palsy-develop-language-skills/>

