Motor Development Lab

New Location
We moved to the new College of Health Professions Building
- 800 East Leigh St, Richmond VA 23298
- Convenient parking in the 8th Street Deck
- Dedicated infant and child research space
- State of the art technology

Current Research
Does Timing Matter? Supporting Play Exploration and Development Intervention: This multi-site clinical trial will evaluate the efficacy of SPEEDI for infants born preterm 29 weeks and compare the impact of timing on the intervention. NCT03518736
Funding: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute Of Child Health & Human Development
Enrolling infant from the Children’s Hospital of Richmond and University of Virginia Neonatal Intensive Care Units

SPEEDI Brain Behavior Study
This extension of SPEEDI is starting to evaluate different types of brain injuries and how the brain changes following early and intensive intervention.
Funding: Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research

Sitting Together and Reaching To-Play (START-Play)
This clinical trial is in the final year evaluating the efficacy of this novel intervention—initial results coming soon.
NCT2593825
Funding: Institute of Educational Science

Play & Learning Across a Year (PLAY)
This multi-site study will assess the behaviors of infants and mothers during natural activity in their homes. VCU is one of many sites participating with a goal of enrolling 900 infants across the USA and Canada
Funding: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute Of Child Health & Human Development
Starting enrollment of 6, 12, 18, and 24 month olds with typical development and their moth-

Comments on Research Participation
"It has been really cool seeing her do different things that I did not necessarily know she was capable of"
- START-Play Parent

"It is really fascinating to see something that we just view as play is actually working on these very specific skills"
- START-Play Parent

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Achievements
Post-doctoral fellow moves on - Emily Marcinowksi joins the Louisiana State University Department of Kinesiology Aug 2019
Research Assistants move on - Daniel Russell will begin a Speech Pathology Program Fall 2019
Kayla Brennan will begin her Doctorate in Physical Therapy Program Fall 2019

Awards
Shaaron Brown and MDL Lab director Stacey Dusing were awarded the 2019 Knowledge Translation Lectureship of the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy, at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting
The mission of the Motor Development Lab is to investigate the development of motor control and coordination in infants and young children with and without disabilities. In addition, clinical trials and other intervention research strive to identify the impact of physical therapy treatment on motor and cognitive development. Director Stacey Dusing, PT, PhD is a Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy with affiliate appointments in Pediatrics and Psychology.

In addition to conducting innovation research, the Motor Development Lab supports the training of researchers from a variety of disciplines, all with the goal of improving care for children at risk or with disabilities.

Current trainees include two students in the Rehabilitation Movement Science PhD program, a Post-doctoral fellow, multiple undergraduates, and doctorate in physical therapy and occupational therapy students.

The Motor Development Lab is currently supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Education, and the VCU College of Health Professions.

The research and training completed in the Motor Development Lab will enhance the lives of children and advance the field of physical therapy and child development. However, additional funding is needed to support trainees as they develop into researchers and clinical leaders.

To financially contribute to research and training in the Motor Development Lab please contact Stacey Dusing at scdusing@vcu.edu.

Publications


Upcoming Presentations

Mater Growth and Development Unit Conference on Improving Outcomes for NICU Infants.

Supporting Motor and Cognitive Development Through Parent Child Interaction and Play - Keynote

Reaching To Play (START-Play) Clinical Trial for children 7-16 months with neuromotor impairments .

Embedding developmental interventions throughout the NICU stay. Mater Infant Hospital NICU.

Queensland Australia. Aug 1,-2 2019

Play - A critical Skill for all infants and young children. VCUHealth 41st Annual Pediatric Primary Care Conference. “Pediatrics at the Beach” July 27, 2019

American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology Conference—2 symposiums and 5 free papers