

Science
NEWSLETTER

Research Participation

We are always looking for families interested in taking part in one of our fun studies.

To volunteer or just for more info:

Contact us!



wee.science@ed.ac.uk
www.weescience.ppls.ed.ac.uk
www.facebook.com/weescience

We've just started an exciting new study looking at the experiences of **bilingual** families who have a child with **autism**. We hope our findings will provide helpful information for families to decide whether or not bringing up their child bilingually is the right fit for them.

We're looking for **bilingual parents who have a child with autism**. If you think you might like to take part, or would like more information, please contact:

Sarah Hampton

shampton@exseed.ed.ac.uk
Phone: 0131 503343

Welcome to **Wee Science!**

Wee Science, the Developmental Lab at the Department of Psychology of the University of Edinburgh, would like to thank all children, teachers, and parents who helped our research by taking part in our fun studies!

To thank you, we have decided to start a regular newsletter, so you can learn about the results of the studies you have taken part in and about all the exciting new research we are working on.

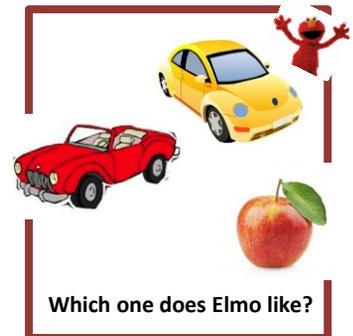


Check our **EVENTS** section on p. 2!

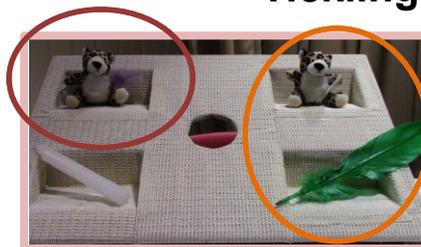
Research Updates

Car or yellow car?

Who: Josefin Nilsson, Kerry Catto
What: 4 and 5-year-olds often say ambiguous things: For example, they may say "Elmo likes the car", and not specify which one. Our eye-tracking data suggest that children (unlike adults) do not search for potential ambiguity before speaking. However, children with better self-control are also better at searching for (and avoiding) ambiguity.



Tickling tigers with feathers



Who: Annie Heron, Amy Young
What: 7-year-olds use discourse cue to interpret confusing sentences, like "Tickle the tiger with the feather".

If they hear "What should we do to a tiger?" they tend to **tickle the tiger using the feather**.

But if they hear "Which tiger should we play with now?", they tend to **tickle the tiger that is holding a feather**.

They behave like adults in this respect but, surprisingly, 5-year-olds have not yet mastered the ability to make sense of a sentence in its discourse.



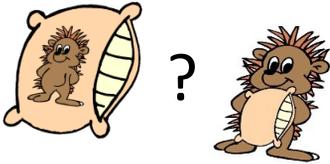
Hedgehog pillows and other mysterious things

This is a "frog pillow".



Who: Judit Fazekas

What: What is a hedgehog pillow? Is it a pillow that belongs to a hedgehog or a pillow with the picture of a hedgehog on it?



Adults tend to interpret novel noun-noun combinations like this based on the type of relations they have encountered before, even if they appeared with different words.

Which is a "hedgehog pillow"?

Children, instead, reuse the relation only with the same words. This suggests they have not learned abstract relations yet.



Events Updates

Wee Science at Camera Obscura!

In January 2015, we joined forces with Camera Obscura and World of Illusions for the first ever Teeny Tiny Toddler Fest. For a week, we spoke to parents, showcased our studies, gave talks up in the camera room, and distributed tons of stickers!



Upcoming Projects

Guessing words



The Leverhulme Trust

We received funding for 3 years to study how children between 3 and 5 can guess what somebody will say before they say it.

We will run lots of studies to understand if children who are better at guessing are also faster language learners.

Public Talks

Would you like to know more about children's cognitive and linguistic development? Our staff are happy to give talks tailored to teachers, nursery staff, or parents.

Get in touch to organize an event at your school or nursery!

Meet the lab / Who's new in Wee Science



Sarah Hampton

I am a research assistant in the Department of Psychology at the University of Edinburgh. I'm currently working on a project looking at autism and bilingualism. Previously, I carried out research on creativity and autism at UCL. My interests include autism, language development, social cognition and philosophy of mind.