

## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

Harvard Lab for Developmental Studies



**Harvard University Lab for Developmental Studies is seeking monolingual and bilingual children for a study of language development.**

We are interested in how language is understood. When we hear a sentence, we hear a string of words at an average of about 3 words per second. In order to understand it, we need to identify each word, decipher the grammar, decide how they fit together, etc. Adults accomplish this difficult task by using different types of information to help them (e.g. their knowledge of the world, the context of the conversation, etc.). Young children find this task much more difficult. However, between the ages of 5 – 10, children become much better at using different information to help them understand sentences as they are being heard. We want to know how children's improvement in language is related to more general cognitive development.

### **Who can participate?**

- \* Children who are 5 to 7 years old
- \* We are especially interested in children who are bilingual!
- \* If you're not sure if your child qualifies, we're happy to discuss it.

### **What does participation involve?**

- \* Families come to our lab in Cambridge for two 1-2 hour session with a trained researcher. Before the session begins, the researcher fully explains the study and parent(s) signs a consent form to participate.
- \* Parents can stay with their child the entire time!
- \* Kids complete 4 computer games, a memory test, 3 standardized tests (2 language tests and a nonverbal IQ test), and 3 eye-tracker tasks. The eye-tracker looks like a computer monitor and is safe to use with kids. Each task is set up like a game, so kids have fun!
- \* Parents complete 2 brief questionnaires

### **What are the incentives?**

Kids who participate will receive a **toy** and the parents will receive **\$5 cash** as travel reimbursement for each of the two sessions!

**Free parking** is available during the session, and we are near the Harvard Square T-stop.

**If you have any other questions or are interested in participating,  
please contact our Lab Manager, Ellie Kaplan, at:  
[elizabethkaplan@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:elizabethkaplan@fas.harvard.edu) or (617) 384-8357**

Whom to contact about your rights in this research, for questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints that are not being addressed by the researcher, or research-related harm: Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Harvard University, 1414 Massachusetts Avenue, Second Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138. Phone: 617-496-CUHS (2847). Email: [cuhs@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:cuhs@fas.harvard.edu).

*Approved  
CJL  
10/19/14*