

# 2021 NEWSLETTER

*UT Child Learning & Development Studies Laboratory*



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PHONE: 512-677-9245  
ADDRESS: 108 E Dean Keeton St**

## WHAT IS UT Childs LAB?

The ChiLDS Laboratory - at The University of Texas at Austin - is a research team led by Dr. Maria Arredondo that is interested in understanding how children learn language. Particularly, we are looking at how the environment around the child (for example, if they grew up in a monolingual or bilingual home) shapes their brain development.

## WHAT STUDIES ARE WE WORKING ON?

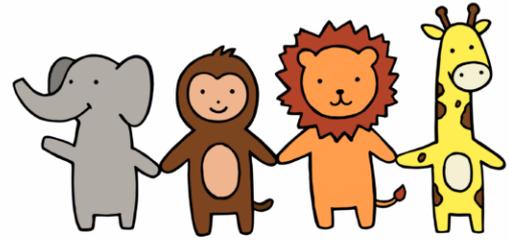
Currently, we are doing an online study aimed at investigating how children ages 18 to 36 months are learning new words. The study consists of two parts, where parents have the option of doing one or both sections. The first part is a 15 minute Zoom session with a research assistant whereas the second part is a 30 minute questionnaire. As a thank you, parents will receive up to two \$5 gift card for their participation.

# RESULTS FROM DR. ARREDONDO

## THE EFFECTS OF SPEAKING PARENTS' NATIVE LANGUAGE ON ETHNIC IDENTITY AND LITERACY

Little research has been done on the formation of ethnic identity, a person's self-classification into a ethnic or cultural group, in children under 12 years old. As such, Dr. Arredondo and her colleagues conducted a study on 25 Spanish speaking children who attended a Spanish school and asked them questions about people who share their ethnic practices and their culture.

After the data was analyzed and the study was over, there were a couple patterns that were found. There was a clear relationship between a child's awareness of their cultural background and the influence that their parents had in its formation. In other words, the more a parent addressed their ethnic background and customs, the more the child expressed understanding of their own ethnicity in relation to others. Additionally, there was some evidence that ethnic identity formation was related to academic performance in Spanish literacy.



CHILD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

## RESOURCES FOR OUR FAMILIES

### VOLUNTEER HEALTHCARE CLINIC

The Volunteer Healthcare Clinic aims at helping provide free medical care to uninsured and low income families. They work on a basis of equity in healthcare for everyone. Their values include treating each patient with quality care, respect, compassion, and dignity.

Services involve chronic disease management (for diseases like high blood pressure and diabetes), a walk-in clinic, and specialty clinics for dermatology, nutrition counseling, and psychiatry. They also offer services in both English and Spanish by medical staff and volunteers.

Visit their website (linked above) for more information. Below is their contact information and address.

Address: 4215 Medical Parkway in Austin, Texas 78756

Main Phone: (512) 459-6002

Email: [info@volclinic.org](mailto:info@volclinic.org)

**Thank you parents for making  
our research possible!**

**Your participation is  
invaluable to us and to public  
understanding of language  
learning!**