

# DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RESEARCH LAB @ CSU

## WINTER NEWSLETTER



### HELLO FRIENDS!

As we start the new year, we want to express so much gratitude for our ongoing connection with our Colorado community. This Winter, we have lots of new opportunities available for your participation, from early childhood to adulthood! Read all about the new RAM Scholars and EXPO opportunities in this newsletter!

We wish you and your family a wonderful winter season, and a very happy New Year!  
--Your friends CSU's DD Lab Team

### *Learn about the new RAM Scholars Program!*

The RAM Scholars Program is an Inclusive Higher Education opportunity at Colorado State University for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. RAM Scholars take agricultural sciences classes at CSU and develop career-related skills through a summer internship. RAM Scholars receive individualized support from CSU peers and faculty to facilitate their success! Do you know a potential Ram Scholar? Call the RAM Scholars Office to learn more. 970-430-5454



### *EXPO: A New Intervention for Preschoolers with Down syndrome!*



Our team is very excited to share a new intervention opportunity, called EXPO: EXecutive function Play Opportunities! EXPO is a science-based program designed to grow executive function skills in children with Down syndrome 3 to 6 years old. EXPO is designed to help you and your child practice using executive function skills during play and routine activities. We are recruiting families to participate in the very first research study of EXPO in Winter and Spring 2023. Interested in finding out more? Call our team!

# Ongoing Research Opportunities

## Executive Function in Children with Down Syndrome

- Children ages 2-7 years
- This research explores the most effective ways to measure executive function skills in children with Down syndrome
- 4 visits over a year; families can be compensated up to \$200

## Cognition in Children & Adolescents with Down Syndrome

- 6-17 year old children and adolescents
- This research explores how to measure thinking skills in children & adolescents with Down syndrome
- 9 visits over four years; families can be compensated up to \$440



## SCIENCE CORNER



### Attention and Problem Solving (Schworer et al, 2022)

Your participation helped us describe the connection between attention skills in infants with Down syndrome and their problem-solving ('executive function') skills 6 months later.

#### **Study Activities:**

In this study, we examined how infants shifted their attention from one interesting object to another with eye gaze. Six months later, many infants played an early executive function game that involved shifting attention from one location where a toy was hidden to searching in a different location when the toy was moved.

#### **What did we find?**

We found out that overall, infants who were faster at shifting their attention with interesting objects were more successful in the early executive function game six months later. This finding highlights the role of early attention in helping infants to solve problems that require strategies and flexibility.



The Developmental Disabilities Research Lab is part of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the College of Health and Human Sciences at Colorado State University.

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