

# DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RESEARCH LAB COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY FALL NEWSLETTER 2022

## HAPPY FALL TO ALL!

We hope that you and your family had a wonderful summer and are excited for cooler temperatures and the falling leaves! There are lots of exciting new projects in our lab this Fall, including a new intervention for preschoolers with Down syndrome and their families, and plans for a new inclusive higher ed program for young adults at CSU. We are also happy to share that families can now access information about our team in English and in Spanish (like these Newsletters)! As always, we appreciate your ongoing support and we hope to see you soon!

Thank you, The Developmental Disabilities Research Lab Team

## NEW EXECUTIVE FUNCTION INTERVENTION FOR PARENTS AND PRESCHOOLERS!

We are very excited to share that our team has developed a new, at-home, executive function intervention for preschoolers with Down syndrome and their caregivers. If you are interested in participating in research on this new intervention, or if you want to know more about it, please call our team!

## SCIENCE CORNER



New Research on: [Early Milestones \(Onnivello et al, 2022\)](#).

### Study Activities:

From your participation in our research studies, we were able to publish one of the first papers to describe the timing of early cognitive and communication milestones in infants with Down syndrome.

### What did we find?

This paper identified the time window when most infants (75%) in the cohort had achieved a range of important milestones for thinking and communicating.

### How will this be applied?

This paper will be helpful for parents, pediatricians, and early interventionists who are following development in infants with Down syndrome during intervention and educational activities.

## INCLUSIVE HIGHER ED @ CSU!

Our lab is excited to partner with the Dept of Occupational Therapy and the College of Agriculture at CSU to develop agricultural career training opportunities for young adults! Interested in learning more? Contact our team!

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT!

### EL GRUPO VIDA

El Grupo Vida is a non-profit organization that supports Latinx/ Hispanic families with children, youth and adults with disabilities and special needs with training, consultation, and resources. Its mission is to empower people with disabilities and their families with information and training to help them become their best advocates. More information: [www.elgrupovida.org](http://www.elgrupovida.org) or 303-335-9875.

## EVENTS IN COLORADO!

Congratulations to RMDSA for the 26th Annual Step up for Down Syndrome Walk on September 25th!

Join NCDSA for the Down Syndrome Walk  
October 1, 2022  
at Windsor Park



## Q&A: COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT!

### THE NORTHERN COLORADO DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION (NCDSA)

#### 1. What is your organization's mission?

"The Northern Colorado Down Syndrome Association (NCDSA) exists to provide support and connection for individuals with Down syndrome and their families through advocacy, awareness, and relationships.

Advocacy: We empower individuals with Down syndrome –and their families –to use their voice in creating the life they desire.

- Awareness: Creating a deeper understanding in our communities of those with Down syndrome, their capabilities and needs.
- Relationships: Believing that Authentic relationships are the center of supporting and connecting our self-advocates and families."

#### 2. How does your organization impact the lives of people with disabilities and their families?

"As a volunteer non-profit, we strive to support individuals with Down syndrome and their families within the Northern Colorado area through a variety of methods including:

- Offering medical, educational, recreational, and unified sports scholarships
- Providing baby baskets to families with a new baby born with Down syndrome
- Fostering relationships through our First Steps; Teen & Young Adults; and our Dads group
- Offering iCan Swim or iCan Bike Camps"