

**KATHRYN A. LEECH**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
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**EDUCATION**


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<b>Ph.D.</b>	University of Maryland Human Development and Quantitative Methodology	2010 - 2016
<b>B.A.</b>	Kenyon College Psychology, highest honors, <i>magna cum laude</i>	2006 - 2010

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**


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<b>Assistant Professor</b>	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education	2019 - present
<b>Postdoctoral Fellow</b>	Harvard University Graduate School of Education	2018 - 2019
<b>Postdoctoral Associate</b>	Boston University College of Education & Human Development	2017 – 2018
<b>Lecturer on Education</b>	Harvard University Graduate School of Education	2017- 2019

**HONORS**


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Conference Travel Awards International Association for the Study of Child Language Society for Research in Child Development	2013-2017
Jacob Goldhaber International Travel Award, University of Maryland	2014
Deans Fellowship, University of Maryland	2010-2012
NCAA Postgraduate Fellowship 1 of 87 NCAA student athletes in United States	2010

**BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRODUCTS OF SCHOLARSHIP**

\*designates shared first authorship

**Refereed Papers/Articles in Press**

McNally, S.\*, **Leech, K. A.\***, Corriveau, K. & Daly, M. (accepted, May 2023) Longitudinal evidence of indirect effects of early shared reading and availability of books on reading achievement in middle childhood. *Scientific Studies of Reading*. \*joint first authorship

Nicolopoulou, A., **Leech, K. A.**, Hale, E., Maurer, G. & Weinraub, M. (accepted, April 2023). Read-

alouds in a preschool classroom: Supporting narrative comprehension through inferential talk and text complexity. *Early Childhood Education Journal*.

**Leech, K. A.**, Chandler-Campbell, I., Alton, J., & Corriveau, K. H. (2023). What would happen if?: A comparison of fathers' and mothers' questions to children during a science activity. *Frontiers in Educational Psychology, 14*, 1-9.

**Leech, K. A.**, Wheat, D., Blatt, J., Rowe, M. L., & Dede, C. (2022). "Literacy is more than just books": Using digital technology to broaden parental conceptions of the home literacy environment. *Journal of Applied Developmental Science*.

Leyva, D., Weiland, C., Shapiro, A., Yeomans-Maldonado, G., & **Leech, K. A.** (2022). Positive impacts of a strengths-based family program on Latino kindergarteners' narrative language abilities. *Developmental Psychology, 58*(5), 835-847.

**Leech, K. A.**, Herbert, K., Wang, T., & Rowe, M. L. (2022). Exploring opportunities for math learning during parent-child interactions during infancy. *Infant and Child Development, 31*, e2271.

\***Leech, K. A.**, \*McNally, S., Daly, M., & Corriveau, K. H. (2022). The value of shared book reading at 9-months for vocabulary development at 3-years: A longitudinal study using a nationally representative sample of Irish families. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 58*, 242-253.

Wang, T., **Leech, K. A.**, & Harris, P. L. (2021). Missing persons: Young children's talk about members of their social network. *Mind and Language, 37, 5, 933-954*.

Haber, A. S., **Leech, K. A.**, Benton, D. T., Dashoush, N. & Corriveau, K. H. (2021). Questions and explanations in the classroom: Examining variation in early childhood teachers' responses to children's scientific questions. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 57*, 121-132.

Kurkul, K., Castine, E., **Leech, K. A.**, & Corriveau, K. H. (2021). How does a switch work? The relation between adult mechanistic language and children's learning. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, 72*, 101221.

Wei, R., **Leech, K. A.** & Rowe, M. L. (2020). Decontextualized language use during Chinese and American caregiver-child interactions. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, 71*, 101214.

**Leech, K. A.** & Rowe, M. L. (2020). An intervention to increase conversational turns between parents and young children. *Journal of Child Language, 1-14*.

Chandler-Campbell, I., **Leech, K. A.**, & Corriveau, K. H. (2020). Investigating science together: Inquiry-based training promotes scientific conversations in parent-child interactions. *Frontiers in Psychology, 11-1934*, 1-12.

Shin, S., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (2020). Parent-child narratives about past and future events and children's cognitive development. *Cognitive Development, 55*, 100910.

- Leech, K. A.**, Haber, A. S., Jalkh, Y. & Corriveau, K. H. (2020). Embedding scientific explanations into storybooks impacts children's scientific discourse and learning. *Frontiers in Psychology, 11-1016*, 1-12.
- McLoughlin, N., **Leech, K. A.**, Chernyak, N., Blake, P., & Corriveau, K. H. (2020). Conflicting perspectives mediate the relation between parents' and preschoolers' self-referent mental state talk during collaboration. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology, 38*, 255-267.
- Leech, K. A.**, Leimgruber, K., Warneken, F., and Rowe, M. L. (2019). Conversation about the future-self improves preschoolers' prospection abilities. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 181*, 110-120.
- Rowe, M. L., & **Leech, K. A.** (2019). A parent intervention with a growth mindset approach improves children's early gesture and vocabulary development. *Developmental Science, 22*, e12792.
- \***Leech, K. A.**, \*Haber, A. S., Arunachalam, S., Kurkul, K., & Corriveau, K. H. (2019). On the malleability of selective trust. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 183*, 65-74.
- Leech, K. A.**, Ratner, N. B., Brown, B., & Weber, C. (2019). Language growth predicts stuttering persistence over and above family history and treatment experience: Response to Marcotte. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research, 62*, 1371-1372.
- Leech, K. A.**, Wei, R., Harring, J. R., & Rowe, M. L. (2018). A brief parent-focused intervention to improve preschoolers' conversational skills and school readiness. *Developmental Psychology, 54*, 1-15.
- Daubert, E., Ramani, G. B., Rowe, M. L., Eason, S. H., & **Leech, K.** (2018). Sum thing to talk about: Caregiver-preschooler math talk in low-income families from the United States. *Bordón. Revista de pedagogía, 70(3)*, 115-130.
- Choi, A. B., **Leech, K. A.**, Tager-Flusberg, H., & Nelson, C. (2018). Development of fine motor skills is associated with expressive language outcomes in infants at high and low risk for autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders, 10*, 1-11.
- Leech, K. A.**, Ratner, N. B., Brown, B., & Weber, C. (2017). Preliminary evidence that children's productive language growth differentiates stuttering persistence and recovery. *Journal of Speech Language and Hearing Research, 60*, 3097-3109.
- Chernyak, N., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (2017). Training preschoolers' prospective abilities through conversation about the extended self. *Developmental Psychology, 53*, 652-661.
- Leech, K. A.**, Rowe, M. L., & Huang, Y. T. (2017). Understanding SES differences in preschool children's syntactic development: The role of vocabulary and processing efficiency. *Journal of Child Language, 44*, 995-1009.
- Huang, Y. T., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (2017). Exploring socioeconomic differences in

- language development through the lens of real-time processing. *Cognition*, 159, 61-75.
- Rowe, M. L., **Leech, K. A.**, & Cabrera, N. J. (2017). Going beyond input quantity: Wh-questions matter for toddlers' language and cognitive development. *Cognitive Science*, 41, 162-179.
- Salo, V. S., Rowe, M. L., **Leech, K. A.**, & Cabrera, N. J. (2016). Fathers' speech to toddlers during book reading versus toy play. *Journal of Child Language*, 43, 1385-1399.
- Ramani, G. B., Rowe, M. L., Eason, S. H., & **Leech, K. A.** (2015). Parents' talk about number during informal learning activities in Head Start families. *Cognitive Development*, 35, 15-33.
- Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (2014). A comparison of preschool children's discussions with parents during picture and chapter book reading. *First Language*, 34, 205-226.
- Leech, K. A.**, Salo, V. S., Rowe, M. L., & Cabrera, N. J. (2013). Father input and child vocabulary development: The importance of *wh*-questions and clarification requests. *Seminars in Speech and Language*, 34, 249-259.

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### Books, Chapters, and Conference Proceedings

- Lin, G. C., Schoenfeld, I., Thompson, M., Xia, Y., Uz-Bilgin, C., & **Leech, K.** (2022). "What color are the fish's scales?" Exploring parents' and children's natural interactions with a child-friendly virtual agent during storybook reading. *Interaction Design and Children* (pp. 185-195).
- Rowe, M. L., Romeo, R., & **Leech, K. A.** Early environmental influences on language (Submitted, July 2021). *Handbook on the Science of Early Literacy*.
- Chernyak, N., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (2016). Training children's prospective abilities through conversation about the extended self. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2159-2164.
- Rowe, M. L., & **Leech, K. A.** (2016). Individual differences in early word learning. In G. Westermann & N. Mani (Eds.), *Early word learning*. Current Issues in Developmental Psychology. Psychology Press.
- Rowe, M. L. & **Leech, K. A.** (2013) *Language Development*. In H. Pashler (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of the mind*. SAGE Reference: Thousand Oaks, CA.

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### REFERRED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

#### SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED/CHAired

- Leech, K. A.** & Kurkul, K. (April, 2019). *Explanations in the classroom: Quality, perceptions and delivery*. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association: Toronto, ON.
- Leech, K. A.**, & Clegg, J. M. (October, 2017). *Variation in parent-child conversation and the development of*

*core cognitive competencies*. Symposium presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Portland, OR.

### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

**Leech, K. A.** (March, 2022). *Literacy is everywhere: Identifying opportunities to support children's language and literacy within everyday routines*. Purdue University.

**Leech, K. A.** (March, 2022). *Literacy is everywhere: Identifying opportunities to support children's language and literacy within everyday routines*. University of Maryland-College Park.

**Leech, K. A.** (October, 2021). *Input and interaction: The role of caregiver speech in children's early language and literacy development*. University of Georgia.

**Leech, K. A.** (March, 2021). *Input and interaction: The role of caregiver speech in children's early language and literacy development*. University of North Carolina Linguistics Colloquium.

Castine, E. & **Leech, K. A.** (April, 2018). *Science in action: Asking good questions to learn about the world*. Workshop presented at the first annual AERA Youth Conference at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

**Leech, K. A.** (March, 2017). *A brief parent-focused intervention to improve preschooler's conversational skills and school readiness*. Language and Literacy Colloquium Series, Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

**Leech, K. A.** (November, 2016). *A brief conversational intervention with parents to increase children's readiness for kindergarten*. Learning and Development Colloquium Series, Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

### REFEREED ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**Leech, K. A.** (April, 2021). Symposium discussant for A. Haber and S. Kumar (chairs) *Learning by Reading: Fostering Children's Science Learning Through Storybooks*. The biennial meeting for the Society for Research in Child Development. Virtual conference due to COVID-19.

Leyva, D., Rivera, Y., Bernhardt, A. & **Leech, K. A.** (April, 2021). *Associations between Latino kindergarteners' decontextualized talk during personal narratives and their language and literacy skills*. Paper to be presented in D. Leyva (chair), Children's decontextualized talk in ethnically and socioeconomically diverse communities in the U.S., China and Norway. Symposium at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development. Virtual conference due to COVID-19.

Dashoush, N., Haber, A. S., **Leech, K. A.**, Benton, D. & Corriveau, K. H. (November, 2020). Virtual paper to be presented, *Questions and explanations in the classroom: How teachers respond to scientific questions posed by children*. NAEYC Annual Conference: Anaheim, CA.

Haber, A. S., Jalkh, Y. & Corriveau, K. H., **Leech, K. A.** (October, 2019). *How shared book-reading*

*can boost children's scientific discourse and understanding.* Paper presented in N. Larsen & V. Sathanandavadivel (chairs), Young Children's Scientific Theory Building and Knowledge Acquisition. Symposium presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Louisville, KY.

**Leech, K. A.,** Leimgruber, K., Warneken, F., and Rowe, M. L. (May, 2019). *Conversation about the future-self improves preschoolers' prospection abilities.* Paper presented in R. Frausel (Chair) The Role of Decontextualized Talk in Children's Cognitive Development. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science: Washington, DC.

**Leech, K. A.,** Haber, A., & Corriveau, K. H. (April, 2019). *Expressions of personal epistemologies in early childhood educators' explanations.* Paper presented in K. Leech & K. Kurkul (chairs), Explanations in the Classroom: Quality, Perceptions and Delivery. Symposium presented at annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association: Toronto, ON.

**Leech, K. A.,** Campbell, I. L., Alton, J., & Corriveau, K. H. (March, 2019). *What would happen if: A comparison of father and mother questions to children at the museum.* Paper presented in E. Daubert (chair), The Darndest Questions: The Role of Questioning in Children's Learning. Symposium at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Baltimore, MD.

Corriveau, K. H., Campbell, I. L. & **Leech, K. A.** (March, 2019). *The role of parental causal talk in children's talk about science in museums.* Paper presented in D. Sobel (chair), Parent-child interaction and learning about scientific thinking in informal settings. Symposium at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Baltimore, MD.

Rowe, M. L., & **Leech, K. A.** (November, 2018). *Pointing to success: A home-based intervention for parents of infants.* Paper presented in R. Romeo (chair), Addressing the putative 'word gap': Approaches to early language interventions. Symposium at the 43th Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.

Campbell, I., **Leech, K. A.,** Direnzo, G. R., & Corriveau, K. C. (April, 2018). *Investigating science together: Structuring pedagogical approaches to promote scientific learning during parent-child interactions.* Paper presented in I. Campbell and K. Cui (chairs), Tailoring pedagogy to suit the learner: examining the impacts of different pedagogical approaches. Symposium at the Annual meeting of the American Education Research Association: New York, NY.

**Leech, K. A.,** Brown, B., Weber, C., & Ratner, N. (July, 2017). *Linguistic predictors of recovery from early childhood stuttering.* Paper presented in N. Ratner (chair), Advances within CHILDES and PhonBank: Corpus data and tools for analysis. Symposium at the Triennial meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language: Lyon, France.

Nicolopoulou, A., & **Leech, K. A.** (July, 2017). *Interactive bookreading: Promoting inferential talk and narrative comprehension.* Paper presented in A. Nicolopoulou (chair), Bookreading interactions at home and at school: Promoting narrative production and comprehension. Symposium at the Triennial meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language: Lyon, France.

- Rowe, M. L., **Leech, K. A.**, Salo, V. S., & Herbert, K. H. (July, 2017). *A parent gesture intervention to reduce early SES gaps in child vocabulary*. Paper presented in F. Alam (chair), SES differences in early linguistic experiences and outcomes. Symposium at the Triennial meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language: Lyon, France.
- Leech, K. A.**, Wei, R. Harring, J. R., & Rowe, M. L. (April, 2017). *Ready for kindergarten: A training program designed to encourage parent-child conversation during the preschool years*. Paper presented in D. Leyva & G. Melzi (chairs), Turning everyday family practices into effective language and literacy interventions for preschool and kindergarten children. Symposium at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Austin, TX.
- Leech, K. A.**, Cheung, E., Rowe, M. L., & Cabrera, N. J. (March, 2015). *Fathers' use of decontextualized language predicts three-year-old children's vocabulary and verbal reasoning skills*. Paper presented in R. Golinkoff (chair), Language development in low-SES and under-represented populations. Symposium at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Philadelphia, PA.
- Leech, K. A.**, Rowe, M. L., Salo, V. S., & Cabrera, N. J. (March, 2015). *The unique role of fathers' wh-questions in toddlers' vocabulary development*. Paper presented in D. Matthews (chair), Determining the features of child-directed speech that best promote early language learning. Symposium at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Philadelphia, PA.
- Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (July, 2014). *A comparison of parent-child interactions while reading picture books versus chapter books*. Paper presented in M. Rowe (Chair), Fostering preschool children's academic language. Symposium at the Triennial meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language: Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (April, 2014). *The relation between parents' abstract questions, children's responses, and narrative ability*. Paper presented in K. Anderson (Chair), Listening to what children say: Narratives in teaching and learning. Roundtable at the Annual meeting of the American Education Research Association: Philadelphia, PA.
- Ramani, G. B., Rowe, M. L., Eason, S. H., & **Leech, K. A.** (2013, April). *Parent talk about math during informal learning activities in Head Start families*. Paper presented and in G. Ramani (Chair), The role of input and interaction in early numeracy development. Symposium at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Seattle, WA.

#### REFEREED POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Pedonti, S., **Leech, K. A.**, & Soliday Hong, S. (2022, June). *Teacher Language Proficiency Ratings, Disability Coordination, and Their Relation to Language and Literacy Outcomes in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start*. Poster presented at the virtual Administration for Children and Families' National Research Conference on Early Childhood.
- Leech, K. A.**, Reynolds, E., Abu Khalaf, N., & Black, M. (2022, April). *Individual differences in how parents and children discuss future concepts*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Madison, WI.

- Pedonti, S., **Leech, K. A.**, Lin, G., Schoenfeld, I., & Uz-Bilgin, C., (2022, April). *Preliminary evaluation of a "Smart Speaker" app to increase parent-child conversation during shared book reading*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Madison, WI.
- Jang, W. & **Leech, K. A.**, (2022, April). *Contextual modulation of parent-child conversation: Semantic network connectivity and children's vocabulary development*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Madison, WI.
- Anderson, K., Pedonti, S., **Leech, K. A.**, & Eason, S. (2022, April). *Experiences of Rural Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Poster presented at the 94<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association: Chicago, IL.
- Leech, K. A.** (April, 2021). *Evidence of children's future-oriented thinking during conversations with parents*. Accepted individual Flash Talk Poster for the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. *Conference virtual due to COVID-19*.
- Rosano, L., **Leech, K. A.** & Wisman Weil, L. (November, 2020). *A parent-focused intervention program for a preschooler with language disorder: A case study*. Accepted poster for the annual American Speech-Language-Hearing Association meeting, San Diego, CA. *Conference cancelled due to COVID-19*.
- Leech, K. A.**, Wheat, D., Blatt, J., Rowe, M. L. & Dede, C. (July, 2021). "Literacy is more than just books": *Using digital technology to broaden parental conceptions of the home literacy environment*. Poster to be presented at the Triennial meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language: Philadelphia, PA. *Conference postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19*.
- McNally, S., **Leech, K. A.**, & Corriveau, K. H (October, 2019). *Literacy practices with infants at 9-months and vocabulary skills at 36 months: findings from an Irish cohort study*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Louisville, KY
- Wei, R., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (March, 2019). *Decontextualized language in American and Chinese caregiver-child interactions*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development: Baltimore MD.
- Leech, K. A.**, Jalkh, Y., Baldwin, C., & Corriveau, K. H. (March, 2019). *Enhancing parent-child scientific conversation through storybook reading*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development: Baltimore MD.
- Yang, Q. T., **Leech, K. A.**, Harris, P. L. (March, 2019). *Missing persons: Young children's talk about members of their social network*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development: Baltimore MD.
- Alton, J. Jalkh, Y., Bandel, M., **Leech, K. A.**, & Corriveau, K. H. (March, 2018). *Gender differences in parent-child talk concerning scientific concepts*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association: Philadelphia, PA.
- Leech, K. A.**, Ronfard, S., & Rowe, M. L. (July, 2017). *Child-initiated and decontextualized topics promote*



- connected parent-child conversation*. Poster presented at the Triennial meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language: Lyon, France.
- Choi, A. B., **Leech, K. A.**, Tager-Flusberg, H., & Nelson, C. (July, 2017). *Early fine motor skills growth helps predict later language and diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in children at high risk for ASD*. Poster presented at the Triennial meeting of the International Association for the Study of Child Language: Lyon, France.
- Shin, S. Y., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (April, 2017). *Parent-child decontextualized talk and preschooler's theory of mind*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development: Austin, TX.
- Nicolopoulou, A., & **Leech, K. A.** (April, 2017). *Teacher's inferential questions, children's responses, and narrative comprehension*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development: Austin, TX.
- Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (April, 2016). *Ready for kindergarten: A parent program designed to encourage conversation during the early childhood years*. Poster presented at the Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association: Washington DC.
- Chernyak, N., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (2015, October). *Training children's prospective abilities through future-oriented conversation*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Columbus, OH.
- Hobbs, D., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (March, 2015). *Feeling-state language use by parents during book-reading predicts children's feeling-state language use and narrative ability*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development: Philadelphia, PA.
- Huang, Y. T., **Leech, K. A.**, Rowe, M. L. (November, 2014). *Understanding differences in children's interpretation of passives: An SES comparison*. Poster presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Boston University Conference on Language Development: Boston, MA.
- Salo, V. S., **Leech, K. A.**, Rowe, M. L., & Cabrera, N. J. (July, 2014). *Early Head Start fathers' speech to toddlers during book-reading versus toy play*. Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Head Start Research Conference on Early Childhood: Washington DC.
- Huang, Y. T., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (March, 2014). *Exploring socioeconomic differences in syntactic development through processing*. Poster presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference: Columbus, OH.
- Leech, K. A.**, Rowe, M. L., & Huang, Y. T. (October, 2013). *Understanding SES differences in preschool children's syntactic development: The role of vocabulary and processing efficiency*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Memphis, TN.
- Leech, K. A.**, Rowe, M. L., & Huang, Y. T. (April, 2013). *From year-to-year and moment-to-moment: Examining syntactic development across two time scales*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Seattle, WA.

- Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (April, 2013). *A comparison of parent-child interactions while reading picture books versus chapter books*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Seattle, WA.
- Eason, S. H., **Leech, K. A.**, Ramani, G. B., & Rowe, M. L. (April, 2013). *Children's executive function relates to the frequency and quality of shared book reading with parents*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Society of Research in Child Development: Seattle, WA.
- Huang, Y. T., Meng, X., & **Leech, K. A.** (March, 2013). *Who did what to whom? An investigation of syntactic re-analysis in English and Mandarin*. Poster presented at the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference: Columbia, SC.
- Leech, K. A.**, Rowe, M. L., & Ramani, G. B. (June, 2012). *Head Start parents' use of decontextualized language during book reading and children's emergent literacy skills*. Poster presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Head Start Research Conference on Early Childhood: Washington DC.
- Ramani, G. B., Rowe, M. L., Eason, S. H., & **Leech, K. A.** (October, 2011). *Count on it? Math talk during parent-child interactions in Head Start families*. Poster presented at the Biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society: Philadelphia, PA.
- Leech, K. A.**, & Krieg, D. B. (May, 2010). *The influence of the home literacy environment and parental beliefs on emergent literacy skill in preschoolers*. Poster presented at the Annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association: Chicago, IL.

## **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

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### **Courses Taught**

#### **UNC-Chapel Hill**

- Parenting and Family Life Education* (undergraduate)  
 Fall 2020 (45 students)  
 Spring 2021 (two sections: 44 students & 22 students)  
 Fall 2021 (48 students)  
 Spring 2022 (two sections: 39 students & 23 students)
- Advanced Early and Emergent Literacy* (graduate)  
 Fall 2020 (18 students)  
 Fall 2022 (19 students)
- Social Basis of Language* (graduate)  
 Fall 2021 (4 students)

#### **Harvard University**

- The Development of Writing* (graduate)  
 Spring 2019 (18 students)  
 Spring 2018 (19 students)  
 Spring 2017 (24 students)

### **Guest Lectures**

- Brown University**, Language development (October 8, 2018)

**Harvard University**, Children's spelling and writing: Underlying competencies and developing skill (November 8, 2018)

**Boston University**, Language and emotion (November 11, 2017)

**Dissertations Chaired/Advised (Milestones Completed; Current Status)**

**UNC-Chapel Hill**

- Sarah Pedonti, Dissertation Co-Chair (Graduated; Summer 2022)
- Wonkyung Jang, Dissertation committee (Graduated; Summer 2022)
- Guan Wang, Dissertation committee (Graduated; Summer 2021)
- Elizabeth Reynolds, Dissertation Chair (Graduated; Spring 2021)

**Undergraduate and Masters Student Research Mentorship**

**UNC-Chapel Hill**

Nadin Abu Kalaf

\*HDFS Honors Thesis student (AY 21-22)

Miranda Black

Amanda Buchanan

Dorentina Dedushaj

Asuka Nakamura

Sholeh Najafian, McNair Research Scholar (Summer 2023 & AY 23-24)

Selah Piper

Anna Queen

Cate Schultz

\*2022 Lindquist grant for undergraduate research

Claire Tilley

Sarah Ward

Drew Wheat

\*HDFS Honors Thesis student (AY 20-21); Awarded highest honors distinction

**Harvard University**

David Baiz

Michael Elka

Erin Cofrancesco

Ellie Hoban

Yue Wang

Briana Swenson

Tiffany Yang

Ran Wei

Muanjing (Julia) Wang

**Boston University**

Youmna Jalkh

\*Honors Thesis Student (AY 18-19), BU-UROP Research & Travel Award (\$1500)

Matthew Bandel

Catherine Baldwin

**University of Maryland**

Jennifer Anderson  
 David Scherr  
 Lauren Abadie  
 Daphne Bemaman  
 Emily Cheung

**GRANTS**

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**Funded External Grants**

*Neural and Environmental Mechanisms of Language Development During the First Three Years of Life (Award #: R21HD107358)*

**Source:** National Institutes of Health (NICHD)

**Role:** PI

**Total Funds:** \$193,398

**Dates:** 09/10/2022 – 09/09/2024

*Using Computational Language Processing Techniques to Determine if Parental STEM Language Varies by Child Gender*

**Source:** National Science Foundation EHR Core Program (Building Capacity in STEM Education)

**Role:** PI

**Total Funds:** \$335,000

**Dates:** 09/01/2021 – 08/31/2023

*Features of Disability Coordination and Literacy and Language Skills of At-Risk Children from Migrant Head-Start Programs*

**Source:** Administration for Children and Families

**Role:** Mentor (Student Fellow: Sarah Pedonti)

**Dates:** 09/20/2021 – 09/29/2022

*Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Food for Thought program. A three-year randomized control trial evaluation of a family literacy program with Latino families in NC.*

**Source:** Brady Education Foundation

**Role:** Consultant (D. Leyva PI; C. Weiland Co-PI)

**Dates:** 05/01/2018 – 04/30/2021

*Biological and Computational Foundations of Language Diversity*

**Source:** National Science Foundation IGERT Graduate Fellowship

**Role:** Graduate Student Fellow

**Dates:** 08/01/2012 – 07/31/2014

**Direct Funds:** \$60,000 plus tuition

**Funded Internal Grants**

*Examining Parent-Child Conversations about Future Concepts in SES Diverse Families*

**Source:** UNC-CH Junior Faculty Development Award

**Role:** PI

**Dates:** 01/01/2021 – 12/31/2021

**Total Funds:** \$10,000

*Embedding Scientific Explanations into Storybooks Impacts Children's Scientific Discourse and Learning*

**Source:** UNC-CH Office of Research and Development Publication Grant

**Role:** PI

**Dates:** 07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021

**Total Funds:** \$1,000

*Changing Parental Behavior Around Book Reading Using Immersive Technology*

**Source:** The Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior, Harvard University

**Role:** PI

**Dates:** 07/01/2019 – 06/30/2021

**Total Funds:** \$4875 *Declined due to change in location*

*READY for kindergarten: A training program to encourage parent-child conversation during the preschool years*

**Source:** UMD Rachel Petty Dissertation Fellowship, SPARC Dissertation Grant

**Role:** Graduate student PI

**Dates:** 07/01/2014 – 06/30/2015

**Total Funds:** \$3,000

## SERVICE

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### EDITORIAL BOARDS

*Developmental Psychology* (Jan. 2022- present)

*Journal of Education* (Aug. 2021- present)

### AD HOC REVIEWER

*Anxiety, Stress, and Coping*

*British Journal of Educational Psychology*

*Child Development*

*Cognitive Development*

*Contemporary Educational Psychology*

*Developmental Psychology*

*Developmental Science*

*Early Child Development and Care*

*Family Relations*

*First Language*

*Frontiers in Education*

*Infant and Child Development*

*Journal of Child Language*

*Journal of Children and Media*

*Journal of Cross Cultural Psychology*

*Journal of Education*

*Journal of Research in Childhood Education*

### CONFERENCE REVIEWER

**2022** Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)

**2022** National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC)

**2021** Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)

**2020** International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)

**2018** Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)

**2018** American Educational Research Association (AERA)

- 2017 Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)  
 2017 Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

### **NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SERVICE**

- 2022 *Faculty Consultant*: Family Reading Partners of Orange County, NC  
 2021 *Workshop Presenter*. Family Structure and Systems/Parenting/Home-School Connections. K-12 school social and emotional learning (SEL) video series  
 2021 *Blog Contributor*. Family Resource Center of Central Oregon  
 2021 *Faculty Judge*. Catalyst for Change Summer Program for High School Students  
 2020 *Presenter*. Research and Planning/Funding for Graduate School. UNC SOE HDFS Friday Faculty Mentoring Sessions  
 2019 *Workshop Co-Organizer*. “Co-designing adult-child literacy experiences”. 8-session workshop for caregivers in Cambridge, MA community; Harvard and MIT  
 2018 *Workshop Organizer*. “Science in action: Asking good questions to learn about the world.” AERA Youth Conference at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association

### **SERVICE TO UNC-CHAPEL HILL**

- 2022 *Search committee member*— Director of undergraduate advising/engagement search  
 2022 *Search committee member*—Science of reading faculty search  
 2022 *Assistant Prof. Representative, Faculty Executive Council* – School of Education  
 2021 *Student Appeals Committee* – School of Education  
 2021 *Search committee member*—School counseling program coordinator  
 2021 *STEP club faculty co-advisor*

### **SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

- 2014 *Committee Member*, HDQM faculty search committee, UMD  
 2013-2014 *President*, Language Science Graduate Student Association, UMD  
 2012-2014 *Executive Committee Member*, IGERT Language Science Program, UMD  
 2011-2014 Human Development Graduate Student Organization (various positions), UMD

### **AFFILIATIONS**

International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)  
 Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)  
 American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
 Cognitive Development Society (CDS)