Welcome to our annual update on research at Cardiff University on social and cognitive development.

Discovering Development

What would you like to discover about development? In 2011, Development@Cardiff participated in a documentary photography exhibition at Cardiff Central Library that posed this question. The exhibition photographs from David Sinden showed how families, researchers, and community partners who participate in the research activities of Development@Cardiff are helping us to understand development better. In 2012, the photographs will be published as a small book. In the meantime, you can see the exhibition photos on our website: http://psych.cf.ac.uk/development/

Research Interns

Every year, research interns work with Development@Cardiff for two to six months on a short-term project. Internships provide a valuable opportunity for students to develop new skills and learn about the relationship between scientific theory and practice. For many of our interns, working with Development@Cardiff is an important step toward becoming a clinical psychologist. Some interns are students at Cardiff University, but others are students at universities in other European countries, such as Germany and Italy. Our 2010 intern Matt Price learned so much that he wrote an article about it for the British Psychological Society’s magazine, The Psychologist! We want to say a big thank you to our 2011 interns: Esther Bresslein, Joshua Eldridge, Matteo Limiti, and Gabriele Zanlungo.

Baby Care Questionnaire

New parents are frequently given advice about how to care for their baby, but there is little evidence about whether and when parents adopt this advice. Our research with the Baby Care Questionnaire is making an important contribution to the evidence base for basic principles and practices of parenting during infancy. If you are one of the 600 parents who completed the questionnaire via the internet or post, thank you! If not, why not do so now? If you have a baby under 18 months old, you can complete the questionnaire online at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BCQ_Winstanley, or request a copy by calling us on 029 2087 6190.
First Steps

Longitudinal studies provide special insights into human development because they involve observations of infants over an extended time. Our First Steps study followed baby milestones from birth to 18 months. In 2012, the children who participated in First Steps will turn four years old. To mark this milestone, we will be conducting a new study of cognitive and communicative development at four years. PhD student Katherine Scott will be contacting families to ask them to bring their child to Cardiff University for the study.

Out and About

The study of human development depends on families who are willing to participate in research. Here is a short summary of what we have been doing with the valuable data you and your child contributed.

PhD student Kate Ellis-Davies presented her work on infant attention abilities at the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada. Kate is also responsible for the first paper on our electronic diary method for the First Steps longitudinal study. Dr Nia Fowler completed her PhD on infant emotions and started a new job at Cardiff University School of Medicine. Dr Elma Hilbrink completed her PhD, and started a new job at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. Elma presented her work on infant imitation at the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada. Dr Elena Sakkalou completed her postdoctoral work on the First Steps project and started a new job at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Elena presented her work on infants’ understanding of intentions at the Society for Research in Child Development, Montreal, Canada. Elena is also responsible for a paper recently published in the journal Cognitive Development on infants’ ability to tell mistakes and intentions apart from the tone of voice. Newspapers, television reporters, and parents around the world have been talking about it. PhD student Alice Winstanley presented her work on parenting during infancy at the British Psychological Society, London. Our scientific papers and presentations are available on our website: http://psych.cf.ac.uk/development/

Your Opportunity to Get Out and About

You are invited to join us for “Changing Lives,” an exciting event at the School of Psychology, Cardiff University, on Friday 9th March with Camila Batmanghelidjh (Kids Company) and Dr Sara Jaffee (Institute of Psychiatry). Camila and Sara will be talking about the needs of children and families, and how scientists and organisations like Kids Company are meeting those needs. The evening will begin with a reception at 5.30pm followed by the talk at 6pm. For further information please email (development@cardiff.ac.uk) or telephone 029 2087 6190.