

KATHRYN A. LEECH

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
3010B Peabody Hall CB 3500 Chapel Hill, NC 27599
leechk@unc.edu | Office: (919) 843-6158 | kathrynleech.com

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Education	2019 - present
Postdoctoral Fellow	Harvard University Graduate School of Education	2018 - 2019
Postdoctoral Associate	Boston University School of Education	2017 – 2018
Lecturer on Education	Harvard University Graduate School of Education	2017- 2019

EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

Referred Articles

- ***Leech, K. A.**, *Haber, A., Arunachalam, S., Kurkul, K., & Corriveau, K. H. (2019). On the malleability of selective trust. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 183, 65-74. *Joint first authorship
- 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.**, 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.
- Leech, K. A.**, Ratner, N. B., Brown, B., & Weber, C. (2018). Preliminary evidence that children's productive language growth differentiates stuttering persistence and recovery, *Journal of Speech Language and Hearing Research*, 60, 3097-3109.
- 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.
- 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.

Manuscripts Under Review

- Leech, K. A.** & Rowe, M. L. (under review). An intervention to increase conversational turns between parents and young children.
- Leech, K. A.**, Campbell, I., Alton, J. A., & Corriveau, K. H. (under review). What would happen if?: Comparing fathers' and mothers' questions to children in the museum.
- Kurkul, K., Castine, E., **Leech, K. A.**, & Corriveau, K. H. (under review). How does a switch work? The relation between adult mechanistic language and children's learning.

McLoughlin, N., **Leech, K. A.**, Chernyak, N., Blake, P., & Corriveau, K. H. (under review). “I think I know what that is...”: Relations between parent and preschoolers’ self-referent mental state talk during collaboration.

Shin, S., **Leech, K. A.**, & Rowe, M. L. (revise and resubmit). Parent-child narratives about past and future events and children’s cognitive development.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Nicolopoulou, A., **Leech, K. A.**, Hale, E., Maurer, G. & Weinraub, M. (in prep). Read-alouds in a preschool classroom: Supporting narrative comprehension through inferential talk and text complexity.

Leech, K. A., Haber, A. S., Jalkh, Y. & Corriveau, K. H. (in prep). Enhancing parent-child scientific conversation through storybook reading.

***Leech, K. A.**, *McNally, S., & Corriveau, K. H. (in prep). 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. **Joint first authors*

Other Journal Articles, Book Chapters, Conference Proceedings

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.

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.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

<i>Changing Parental Behavior Around Book Reading Using Immersive Technology</i>	2019-2021
The Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior, Harvard University	
K. Leech (PI), C. Dede (Faculty sponsor)	
\$4875	

<i>Evaluation of the effectiveness of the food for thought program</i>	2018 - 2020
Brady Educational Foundation	
K. Leech: Consultant, D. Leyva (PI, Davidson College), C. Weiland (Co-PI, Michigan)	
<i>Understanding the cognitive underpinnings and developmental consequences of prospection during early childhood</i>	2016 - 2017
Mind/Brain/Behavior Interfaculty Initiative Faculty Award, Harvard University	
K. Leech: Designated postdoc, M. Rowe & F. Warneken (Co-PIs)	
<i>READY for kindergarten: A training program designed to encourage parent-child conversation during the preschool years</i>	2014 - 2015
Rachel Petty Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland	
\$2000	
<i>READY for kindergarten: A training program designed to encourage parent-child conversation during the preschool years</i>	2014 - 2015
SPARC Dissertation Grant, University of Maryland	
\$1000	
<i>Biological and Computational Foundations of Language Diversity</i>	2012 - 2014
National Science Foundation (NSF IGERT Award #0801465)	
\$30,000 plus tuition / 2 years	
NCAA Postgraduate Fellowship	2010
\$7500, 1 of 87 NCAA student athletes in United States to receive Fellowship	

REFERRED ORAL 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

- 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

Haber, A. S., **Leech, K. A.**, Jalkh, Y. & Corriveau, K. H. (October, 2019). How shared book-reading can boost children's scientific discourse and understanding. Paper to be 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.**, Drenzo, 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

- 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 39th 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 12th 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 27th 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 26th 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 11th 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.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Conference Travel Award (\$900)	2017
International Association for the Study of Child Language	

Student Travel Award (\$300) Society for Research in Child Development	2015
International Conference Travel Award (\$500) University of Maryland	2014

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Course Instructor	<i>The Development of Writing</i> - 24 graduate students	Spring, 2017
Course Instructor	<i>The Development of Writing</i> - 18 graduate students	Spring, 2018
Course Instructor	<i>The Development of Writing</i> - 22 graduate students	Spring, 2019

Research Mentorship

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
*UROP student travel award (\$500), UROP research supplies award winner (\$1000)
Matthew Bandel
Catherine Baldwin

University of Maryland

Jennifer Anderson
David Scherr
Lauren Abadie
Daphne Bemaman
Emily Cheung

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

TO UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Student Representative, HDQM faculty search committee 2013 – 2014

President, Language Science Student Association	2013 – 2014
Executive Committee Member, IGERT	2013 – 2014
Human Development Graduate Student Association (various positions)	2011 – 2013

AD HOC REVIEWER

British Journal of Educational Psychology, Child Development, Cognitive Development, Contemporary Educational Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Developmental Science, Early Child Development and Care, First Language, Journal of Child Language, Journal of Children and Media, Journal of Cross Cultural Psychology, Journal of Research in Childhood Education, Anxiety, Stress, and Coping

CONFERENCE REVIEWING

Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)	2017, 2018
American Educational Research Association (AERA)	2018

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)