

Amy M. Hedrick
Research Statement

My research focuses on the ways in which individual child factors (e.g., language abilities) and external factors (e.g., conversational exchanges with peers and family members) impact what children are able to recall about specific events. I'm currently involved in several experimental studies that attempt to isolate how the manner in which children talk about events relates to their retention of specific event information. More specifically, one project involves the manipulation of children's exposure to elaborative conversational techniques during and/or after a novel event to determine how the timing of elaborative talk may differentially impact children's memories for the experience. The second project is designed to determine if varying the event goal instruction for a unique activity influences the ways in which mothers structure event conversations with their children and how this may in turn impact children's remembering. In addition, I am also involved in several large-scale longitudinal projects that each attempt to chart children's development in various domains from infancy through early childhood.