Faculty mentor: Anne Fernald

Research supervisor(s):
Virginia Marchman, Research Scientist, marchman@stanford.edu

Project topic(s): How can caregivers support language development in English- and Spanish-learning children?

Brief description of scientific issues:
We investigate language development in the first years of life in children learning English, Spanish, and both English and Spanish. Our studies follow children from age 18 months to 8 years. A central question in our research is how infants’ early experiences with language from caregivers at home influences their later language processing efficiency and language and literacy development. In particular, how does poverty affect parent-infant interactions in ways that may compromise early language learning and later school success? In our studies with Spanish-learning children, we explore the contexts in which children learn English and how those contexts also support ongoing maintenance of Spanish. As an RA you will be able to work virtually. Main tasks are screening experimental sessions, scoring standardized assessments, checking transcriptions of naturalistic interactions, and coding quality of caregiver-child engagement. For some projects, native fluency in Spanish is required.

Skills required: Attention to detail, ability to work in teams, good communication skills.

Skills to be learned: Learn how to evaluate caregiver-child interactions, gain familiarity with experimental measures of language processing, learn about standardized and experimental assessments of language, executive function, early literacy and math.

Hours: Full time

Contact person: Virginia Marchman, marchman@stanford.edu