Research Spotlight, continued …

The Story Game

Graduate Student, Karrie Godwin and her advisor, Dr. Anna Fisher, are investigating how children allocate their attention in learning environments. In particular, they are interested in examining whether children’s ability to effectively distribute their attention has consequences for learning new content and for retention of learned material. To answer this question, they are investigating the role of divided and sustained attention on children’s long-term memory. In this study, they will examine whether children’s ability to engage in sustained attention during a short lesson affects children’s long-term retention of the lesson content. In this game, your child will be asked questions about several stories that they heard during prior research sessions. For example, if your child listened to a story about muscles and bones, your child may be asked questions similar to the example here.

Undergraduate Spotlight

Emily Gibson writes, “I love my life at Carnegie Mellon. It can be stressful, but it’s a challenging and rewarding place where I get to do the things I love. I am a sophomore in the BHA program (Bachelor’s of Humanities and Arts), and I study dramaturgy and history. I’m also pursuing degrees in English Studies and Creative Writing, which means I’ve always got a full plate of course work to manage. It also means that I spend a lot of time in the library! I am hoping to work in theatre as a dramaturg, literary manager, or artistic director, but I’m interested in museum work and education as well. Of course, it wouldn’t be much fun if I only did academics. I have a lot of other things to keep me busy between classes and homework. I am a flutist in the CMU Kiltie Band; a member of the activist group Life Matters; and the president of the newly formed Carnegie Mellon (Muggle) Quidditch Club, for which I also play the positions of Beater and Chaser. I’m currently a writer for TheaterMania, where I have a personal column, and I have two part-time jobs: one at The Waffle Shop in East Liberty, the other at The Children’s School.

I started working at The Children's School in my first semester at CMU, and it has been a great opportunity for me. I love working with children, and the environment is so relaxed and friendly. I also spend a lot of time in the office, which is a different kind of fun all together, but one that has given me experiences I know I'll use in internships and jobs to come. I consider myself really lucky to have stumbled upon the school as a freshman, because every day that I see the children, I learn something new and I have the chance to be amazed by how brilliant, funny, and kind they all can be -- and that is more than I could have asked for from a work study job.”

Dr. Carver adds, “Notice how well Emily exemplifies the skill of ‘taking on challenges’, which is the subject of my Director’s Corner this month. Thanks for being such a great model, Emily!”