Undergraduate Research

Yevdokiya (Dussy) Yermolyeva’s Developmental Research Methods students are preparing their final projects for the semester. Though the research procedures are still being finalized, the topics are listed below. Families whose children participate will receive fuller parent descriptions via the child’s backpack. Everyone can read the study descriptions on the Research Bulletin Board outside the Children’s School Office. Notice the interesting range of important topics in early childhood development!

The Effects of Interactive vs. Non-Interactive Instruction – testing morning 3’s and kindergartners to determine whether children are better able to reproduce cup-stacking patterns when they get to help arrange them instead of just watching the researcher arrange them (The Colorful Cup Game)

The Impact of Eye Contact on Story Comprehension – studying whether morning 4’s attend better to a short story when the researcher uses direct eye contact vs. indirect eye contact, and whether the effect is the same for stories with and without pictures (The Story Time Game)

The Effects of Music – with and without Lyrics on Task Completion Time – testing morning 4’s to determine whether the speed of their puzzle and peg board completion is impacted by background music that is either fast or slow and either includes lyrics or not (The Pegs and Puzzle Game)

The Influence of Practice and Coaching on Cutting Accuracy – testing whether morning 4’s improve their cutting skills as a result of practice, with or without guidance on hand position (The Cutting Game)

The Impact of Observation Training on Novel Symbol Recognition – comparing the ability of afternoon 3’s and kindergartners to recognize new cursive letters before and after training that involves the researcher highlighting key features of either cursive or print fonts (The Spot the Symbols Game)

Undergraduate Spotlight: Getting to Know You!!

Abby Cryan is a junior Biology major with a minor in Art. Abby grew up in Princeton, New Jersey. She enjoys watercolor and oil painting. Next semester, Abby will study abroad in Seoul, South Korea, where she plans to study Biology and Ceramics, as well as learn a new language and culture.

Abby is thril to work with the friends at the Children’s School. It is a great break from a busy school day and always fun. Abby’s experience with the children has helped her to develop new communication techniques. Her favorite activity is going on walks with the children and seeing how happy it makes them. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know the children. Abby is considering a career involving children’s health.