Giving

Contributions are gratefully accepted to help fund the vital work of the Callier Center. We hope you will think of Callier when considering your:

Donations in honor or memory of loved ones

Estate planning

Year-end contributions

For additional information, call 214-905-3149, or mail contributions to the Development Office, Callier Center, 1966 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas, 75235.

Thank you for your support

The object of this puzzle is to find the listed hidden words. The words may be hidden in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards and forwards.

Answer online at: www.callier.utdallas.edu/puzzle.html
Mandy Maguire is the author of a soon to be published article on what conditions are best for teaching novel verb labels to children. Theoretically there are two distinct arguments about how children are best able to do this. Many researchers in language acquisition claim, that many different exemplars of an action allow children to abstract dynamic information independent from any particular object or actor (e.g., Behrend, 1995; Gentner, 2003). However, work on dynamic category formation posits that fewer or familiar agents or objects allow children to focus on an action’s relational features (Cassassa, 2005; Kerenst & Smith, 2001). This was the first study to investigate toddlers’ ability to learn and extend a novel verb label when exposed to one exemplar versus multiple exemplars of an action.

In a simple study, 31 and 37-month-olds were shown either four different actors performing a novel intransitive action or a clip of one actor repeated 4 times as it was labeled with a novel name ("blicking"). At test children saw two novel actors on a split screen, one performing the target action and the other performing a novel, intransitive action. The experimenter asked the child "which one is blicking?" and recorded the child’s pointing response.

Mandy Maguire is the author of a soon to be published article on what conditions are best for teaching novel verb labels to children. Theoretically there are two distinct arguments about how children are best able to do this. Many researchers in language acquisition claim, that many different exemplars of an action allow children to abstract dynamic information independent from any particular object or actor (e.g., Behrend, 1995; Gentner, 2003). However, work on dynamic category formation posits that fewer or familiar agents or objects allow children to focus on an action’s relational features (Cassassa, 2005; Kerenst & Smith, 2001). This was the first study to investigate toddlers’ ability to learn and extend a novel verb label when exposed to one exemplar versus multiple exemplars of an action.

In a simple study, 31 and 37-month-olds were shown either four different actors performing a novel intransitive action or a clip of one actor repeated 4 times as it was labeled with a novel name ("blicking"). At test children saw two novel actors on a split screen, one performing the target action and the other performing a novel, intransitive action. The experimenter asked the child "which one is blicking?" and recorded the child’s pointing response.

Mandy Maguire is the author of a soon to be published article on what conditions are best for teaching novel verb labels to children. Theoretically there are two distinct arguments about how children are best able to do this. Many researchers in language acquisition claim, that many different exemplars of an action allow children to abstract dynamic information independent from any particular object or actor (e.g., Behrend, 1995; Gentner, 2003). However, work on dynamic category formation posits that fewer or familiar agents or objects allow children to focus on an action’s relational features (Cassassa, 2005; Kerenst & Smith, 2001). This was the first study to investigate toddlers’ ability to learn and extend a novel verb label when exposed to one exemplar versus multiple exemplars of an action.
Preschoolers Get An Apprenticeship in Reading Comprehension

Anne van Kleeck was the lead author of a cutting-edge study that was published in the February 2006 issue of the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology. The article reported a small intervention study conducted with preschoolers in Head Start who had language delays. Unlike the vast majority of research conducted in the last decade that has been aimed at preparing preschoolers to develop these skills, this study tested an intervention for eight weeks. Embedded in the storybooks were literal and inferential demands of later reading comprehension. The intervention consisted of reading storybooks to the children individually twice a week for eight weeks. Embedded in the storybooks were literal and inferential questions. The inferential questions required the children to think beyond the information directly presented in the story or accompanying pictures to consider such things as the attitudes and points of view of characters, the causes of events that had occurred or might occur, and connections between events in the story and the real life experiences of the child. If the child was unable to answer any questions, the adult reader supplied an appropriate response in order to model the kind of thinking the question required.

After just eight weeks of twice weekly fifteen minute reading sessions, the children receiving the intervention made significantly greater gains on standardized tests of vocabulary and inferential language than did a group of very similar children who had not received the intervention. Other research has established that both of these skills are critical to reading comprehension in older children. This study offers preliminary evidence of the feasibility of such interventions during preschool help prevent the reading comprehension difficulties that many school-aged children with language delays experience.


Eloyce Newman, BA
Director of Development & External Relations

She Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby
by Executive Director Emeritus, Dr. Ross J. Roeser

The thrill that movie goers feel when watching Harrison Ford in his role as the legendary Indiana Jones in Raiders of the Lost Ark became a reality for me as I continued my genealogical quest into Lena Callier’s background. It all began with an email inquiry from Mr. Miles Garner, who lives in Kershaw, South Carolina, who wanted to know if the Callier Center was still in existence. He said he was preparing material for his family’s history and was going to include information about Callier.

This led to a couple of emails and eventually a phone conversation. Seems that as a boy Mr. Garner’s developed a fascination for Civil War history due to the battle and personal tales his relatives spun. This led him to write two intriguing volumes filled with genealogical data—of which I eagerly purchased. One such relative was Burrell Christmas Evans (1844–1889). “Christmas,” of course, was Mr. Evans middle name because he was born on Christmas Day. From here, the story gets quite involved, much too involved for this short column. Those interested can borrow Mr. Garner’s books from me. A short version follows.

Burrell must have been quite a force: in South Carolina at the age of twelve years he delivered the valedictory oratory which was attended by one thousand to twelve hundred people at his grade school alma mater, White Plains Academy; he attended the famed Citadel military academy; he was a Confederate soldier; and following the Civil War he ran for political office in South Carolina. Although elected, because of “carpetbagger and scalawag” politics, the election was overturned. Upset because of the election, in 1872 Mr. Evans moved from South Carolina to Ft. Worth where his entrepreneurial prowess made him one of the most successful and wealthiest men in North Texas of that era. He established the B. C. Evans Company, was a large landowner and stockholder, and one of the directors of the National Bank of Ft. Worth. Unfortunately, in 1889 while sitting at his desk one day Mr. Evans was shot to death by one of his disgruntled employees.

How does this all relate to Mrs. Lena Callier? Well, it turns out that Mr. Evans was Lena’s father; the “E” in her middle name standing for Evans. Lena was the oldest daughter, and she had a brother Albert and sister Ethel. Lena and Albert had no children, but Ethel did, and several descendants are living in Ft. Worth today. A luncheon meeting with two of them a few months ago revealed several other interesting facts, but most importantly they sent me a portrait of Lena, the first I’d ever seen. What a thrill it was to be able to visualize Callier’s namesake for the first time.

As more information is being uncovered, there are more interesting facts about Lena Evans Callier that explain her decision to establish the trust for those with communication problems resulting from hearing loss. For now, I share with you her photo. Described as being “small in stature”, Lena certainly had to have been a beautiful baby. Adorned with her pearl necklace and elegantly dressed, she was a beautiful woman.

It is gratifying to finally be able to see the likeness of the person who made the Callier Center for Communication Disorders a reality. I can’t wait until her photo is prominently displayed to commemorate her legacy.
The Infant Learning Project, a research program at the Callier Center - Richardson, studies infants’ processing of communicative signals during the first year of life.

This research project is conducted by Dr. Melanie Spence, Associate Professor in the School of Behavior and Brain Sciences. Dr. Spence trains both graduate and undergraduate students in infant development and research methodology. Dr. Spence and the graduate students are currently exploring prelinguistic infants’ perception of others’ communicative intent and emotion.

This work examines:

1. How and when infants differentiate infant-directed speech vocalizations that communicate different messages.
2. At what age infants discriminate videotaped facial expressions conveying positive and negative emotions. A collaborative project with Dr. Susan Jerger studies the impact of facial movement on infants’ speech perception.

Infants’ processing of speech and facial signals is assessed using procedures that measure infants’ attention and responsiveness to different types of information. These procedures allow researchers to understand how infants perceive information before they are capable of verbal communication. Previous findings from Dr. Spence’s research have shown that discrimination of approving and comforting speech passages develops between 4 and 6 months of age and that infants’ discrimination of happy and disgust videotaped facial expressions develops between 6 and 10 months.

More information about this research program or participating in this research can be found at http://bbs.utdallas.edu/ilp/ and http://bbs.utdallas.edu/staff_faculty/faculty/spence.html

---

**Take note**

Donise Pearson, Callier Center - Richardson Facility Director & Director of Clinical Operations, will receive the distinguished Jack L. Bangs Award during the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) 2007 Convention in Houston, Texas in March. The award is presented to individual speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist who have contributed significantly to the TSHA and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and have demonstrated outstanding leadership along with professional excellence.

Jan Lougeay, UTD Clinical Instructor and Director of Clinical Education for Speech-Language Pathology within Behavioral and Brain Sciences, will be inducted into the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s esteemed “Hall of Fame” at the upcoming March 2007 TSHA Convention in Houston. The award is presented to speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist who have demonstrated exemplary commitment and contribution in serving those with communication disorders.
Dr. William Katz, an associate professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas, is using a new technology to treat speech movement after stroke. A disorder called apraxia of speech (AOS) may result after brain damage caused by stroke and affects the timing and placement involved in speech movements.

Dr. Katz and Diane Garst, a research speech-language pathologist, are using a specialized method to track tongue movement during speech called electromagnetic articulography (EMA). EMA feedback allows apraxic/aphasic subjects to visualize their own tongue movements on a computer screen during speech. The subjects use this feedback during treatment to position the tongue for selected speech targets.

Correct tongue placement is often difficult for speech-language pathologists to describe to patients. According to Dr. Katz, “This approach offers a powerful new set of techniques to treat speech after stroke.”

This ongoing study is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and is a collaboration with UTD, and the Dallas and Pittsburgh VA hospitals. The Callier Center houses one of approximately 15 systems in the United States.

Dr. Katz joined UTD in 1990 and teaches courses in Phonetics, Speech Science, and Aphasiology. He received his PhD in linguistics from Brown University. He worked in research at University of California, San Diego and was a Fulbright Scholar in Konstanz, Germany. Diane Garst, is a speech language pathologist who graduated from UTD in 2004 and returned to Dallas to be part of this project.

Marissa Mendrygal, a third-year student at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), was recently presented with an Audiology Foundation of America (AFA) Outstanding AuD Student Scholarship. Mendrygal received $4,500 in support of her academic endeavors.

The Outstanding AuD Student Scholarships were established to recognize and support the "best and brightest" AuD students. These scholarships are funded by a grant from the Oticon Foundation, also known as the William Demant and Ida Emilie Foundation. Mendrygal was nominated for the award by the faculty at UTD for her academic achievement, individual leadership, clinical skills and local and international community service. AFA Chair Deborah Price, AuD, presented the award January 26, 2007, at the Callier Center in Dallas during a third-year student presentation event.

If you stutter you are definitely in good company! There are many famous and successful people throughout history who stuttered and have been very successful in their chosen careers. The history of famous stutterers can be traced back all the way to biblical times. Moses is believed to have been a stutterer.

Other individuals are:

- King George VI, King of England, (1937-1952)
- Charles Darwin, British naturalist, developed the theories of evolution, (1809-1882)
- Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Britain during World War II, (1874-1965).

Once a month, YESS (Youth Experience Stuttering Support) a support group for children between the ages of 6 and 12 and their parents hold a monthly meeting at the Callier Center - Dallas facility. Information can be found online at www.callier.utdallas.edu/events.html for dates and times.

Left to right: Deborah Price and Marissa Mendrygal
The Plano-Collin County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Zeta (PCCA), a diverse group of women of all ages, have been active for over 14 years. During this time they have gained the reputation with Delta Zeta National as a chapter that exhibits terrific “sisterhood” with a philanthropic mindset in the Dallas/Fort Worth community. On November 14, 2006 the President of PCCA Kirsten Pierard, visited the Callier Center Richardson facility located on the UTD campus. Accompanying Mrs. Pierard were other PCCA members Susan Maddock, Janelle Reed, Courtney King, and Jackie Reed. Jan Lougeay, Clinical Faculty member and Director of Clinical Education for Speech-Language Pathology, conducted a guided tour of the facility with demonstrations of the Infant Lab and the Assistive Listening Device Program. One component of the tour included graduate students and a former patient talking briefly about their involve-

Donation presented by Delta Zeta Chapter

The Plano-Collin County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Zeta (PCCA), a diverse group of women of all ages, have been active for over 14 years. During this time they have gained the reputation with Delta Zeta National as a chapter that exhibits terrific “sisterhood” with a philanthropic mindset in the Dallas/Fort Worth community. On November 14, 2006 the President of PCCA Kirsten Pierard, visited the Callier Center Richardson facility located on the UTD campus. Accompanying Mrs. Pierard were other PCCA members Susan Maddock, Janelle Reed, Courtney King, and Jackie Reed. Jan Lougeay, Clinical Faculty member and Director of Clinical Education for Speech-Language Pathology, conducted a guided tour of the facility with demonstrations of the Infant Lab and the Assistive Listening Device Program. One component of the tour included graduate students and a former patient talking briefly about their involve-

Benefiting From Cookie Sales

Employees at McDermott library held two bake sales to generate $700 during the 2006 State Employee Charitable Campaign. The library chose the acclaimed Callier Center as the charity to receive the funds. The first bake sale netted $333 and the second brought in $367. Library staff participated either by manning the sales table and/or donating special baked items and desserts. Other UTD staff members from other departments of the university also donated baked goods. Staff and students were enthusiastic in supporting the sale by purchasing the baked items and, in many cases, made donations over and above the minimum amount requested.

Humanitarian Audiology Project

The week of December 6, 2006 a team from UT-Dallas and other universities traveled to Panama on a Humanitarian Audiology Project whose mission was to evaluate hearing and distribute donated hearing aids to needy hearing-impaired Panamanians. The team was lead by Callier Audiologist Dr. Brisy Northrup. Dr. Northrup was joined by another Callier audiologist, Mrs. Cynthia MacArthur and several UTD doctoral audiology students: Reagan Youngblood, Jackie Youde, Lauren Butler and Barbara Ortiz. This was the second trip to Panama for Lauren, Barbara and her husband, Jude Ortiz, who helped out with a similar project in December 2005. The other team members were: Rachel Cooper and Julie Helfen from the University of Louisville, Kristin Follett from Gallaudet University and Erica Hansen from Central Michigan University.

During the trip the team tested over 300 patients and dispensed approximately 120 hearing aids. They visited various regional health centers and clinics in the central provinces of Los Santos, Herrera, Veraguas and Coce.

"I have been very pleased to see how these projects have helped so many people in need of hearing care and have raised awareness of the profession of audiology in the country of Panama" comments Dr. Northrup. "Moreover, these trips have provided students with the opportunity to enhance their clinical skills under time pressures, to develop cultural sensitivity, to search for creative solutions amidst unexpected circumstances, to visit interesting places and interact with people from different backgrounds. I am also very proud of seeing each one of them be excellent goodwill ambassadors of this great country, of their respective universities and of the profession of audiology.”

Dr. Northrup has been traveling to Panama since 1991. To donate hearing aids or funding for next year’s mission email Dr. Northrup at northrup@utdallas.edu.
Benefits from Cookie Sales
...rolling in the dough

Employees at McDermott library held two bake sales to generate $700 during the 2006 State Employee Charitable Campaign. The library chose the acclaimed Callier Center as the charity to receive the funds. The first bake sale netted $333 and the second brought in $367. Library staff participated either by manning the sales table and/or donating special baked items and desserts. Other UTD staff members from other departments of the university also donated baked goods. Staff and students were enthusiastic in supporting the sale by purchasing the baked items and, in many cases, made donations over and above the minimum amount requested.

Humanitarian Audiology Project

The week of December 6, 2006 a team from UT-Dallas and other universities traveled to Panama on a Humanitarian Audiology Project whose mission was to evaluate hearing and distribute donated hearing aids to needy hearing-impaired Panamanians. The team was lead by Callier Audiologist Dr. Brisy Northrup. Dr. Northrup was joined by another Callier audiologist, Mrs. Cynthia MacArthur and several UTD doctoral audiology students: Reagan Youngblood, Jackie Youde, Lauren Butler and Barbara Ortiz. This was the second trip to Panama for Lauren, Barbara and her husband, Jude Ortiz, who helped out with a similar project in December 2005. The other team members were Rachel Cooper and Julie Helfen from the University of Louisville, Kristin Follett from Gallaudet University and Erica Hansen from Central Michigan University.

During the trip the team tested over 300 patients and dispensed approximately 120 hearing aids. They visited various regional health centers and clinics in the central provinces of Los Santos, Herrera, Veraguas and Coclé.

“I have been very pleased to see how these projects have helped so many people in need of hearing care and have raised awareness of the profession of audiology in the country of Panama” comments Dr. Northrup. “Moreover, these trips have provided students with the opportunity to enhance their clinical skills under time pressures, to develop cultural sensitivity, to search for creative solutions amidst unexpected circumstances, to visit interesting places and interact with people from different backgrounds. I am also very proud of seeing each one of them be excellent goodwill ambassadors of this great country, of their respective universities and of the profession of audiology.”

Donation presented by Delta Zeta Chapter

The Plano-Collin County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Zeta (PCCA), a diverse group of women of all ages, have been active for over 14 years. During this time they have gained the reputation with Delta Zeta National as a chapter that exhibits terrific “sisterhood” with a philanthropic mindset in the Dallas/Fort Worth community. On November 14, 2006 the President of PCCA Kirsten Pierard, visited the Callier Center Richardson facility located on the UTD campus. Accompanying Mrs. Pierard were other PCCA members Susan Maddock, Janelle Reed, Courtney King, and Jackie Reed. Jan Lougeay, Clinical Faculty member and Director of Clinical Education for Speech-Language Pathology, conducted a guided tour of the facility with demonstrations of the Infant Lab and the Assistive Listening Device Program. One component of the tour included graduate students and a former patient talking briefly about their involve-

In the photograph above, library staff present the donation to Callier Center Executive Director Dr. Thomas Campbell. Left to right: Rosa Thompson, Loreen Phillips, Dean of Libraries Dr. Larry D. Sall, Dr. Campbell, and Tia Lambert.

In the photograph above pictured third from left, Minister of Health, Dr. Camilo Alleyne with the Humanitarian Audiology Project Team.
Dr. William Katz, an associate professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas, is using a new technology to treat speech movement after stroke. A disorder called apraxia of speech (AOS) may result after brain damage caused by stroke and affects the timing and placement involved in speech movements.

Dr. Katz and Diane Garst, a research speech-language pathologist, are using a specialized method to track tongue movement during speech called electromagnetic articulography (EMA). EMA feedback allows apraxic/aphasic subjects to visualize their own tongue movements on a computer screen during speech. The subjects use this feedback during treatment to position the tongue for selected speech targets.

Correct tongue placement is often difficult for speech-language pathologists to describe to patients. According to Dr. Katz, “This approach offers a powerful new set of techniques to treat speech after stroke.”

This ongoing study is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and is a collaboration with UTD, and the Dallas and Pittsburgh VA hospitals. The Callier Center houses one of approximately 15 systems in the United States.

Dr. Katz joined UTD in 1990 and teaches courses in Phonetics, Speech Science, and Aphasiology. He received his PhD in linguistics from Brown University. He worked in research at the University of California, San Diego and was a Fulbright Scholar in Konstanz, Germany. Diane Garst, is a speech language pathologist who graduated from UTD in 2004 and returned to Dallas to be part of this project.

Dr. Ross J. Roeser officially became Emeritus Executive Director when Dr. Thomas Campbell actively assumed the Executive Director duties in September 2006. The University’s School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences and the Callier Center acknowledged Dr. Roeser’s years of service and achievements with “A Celebration of Service” reception in his honor. The reception was held at the Callier Dallas facility on the afternoon of October 18, 2006. A brief program was held with remarks from UTD President Dr. David Daniel, Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. B. Hobson Wildenthal and the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences’ Dean, Dr. Bert Moore. Remarks were also made by special guests and world renowned audiologists, Dr. Marion Downs and Dr. Robert Keith. Dr. Downs and Dr. Keith are long time friends of Dr. Roeser. Dr. Roeser was extremely surprised and thrilled with their presence. Those who attended the reception included University and Callier employees, visiting audiologists from around the country, friends and family. Dr. Roeser is still very active within the university and the Callier Center as he continues to teach, see patients and perform his duties as Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Audiology.

AuD Student Receives AFA Scholarship

Marissa Mendrygal, a third-year student at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), was recently presented with an Audiology Foundation of America (AFA) Outstanding AuD Student Scholarship. Mendrygal received $4,500 in support of her academic endeavors.

The Outstanding AuD Student Scholarships were established to recognize and support the “best and brightest” AuD students. These scholarships are funded by a grant from the Oticon Foundation, also known as the William Demant and Ida Emilie Foundation. Mendrygal was nominated for the award by the faculty at UTD for her academic achievement, individual leadership, clinical skills and local and international community service. AFA Chair Deborah Price, AuD, presented the award January 26, 2007, at the Callier Center in Dallas during a third-year student presentation event.

Stuttering does not have to be a barrier to success

If you stutter you are definitely in good company! There are many famous and successful people throughout history who stuttered and have been very successful in their chosen careers. The history of famous stutterers can traced back all the way to biblical times. Moses is believed to have been a stutterer.

Other individuals are:

King George VI, King of England, (1937-1952)
Charles Darwin, British naturalist, developed the theories of evolution, (1809-1882)
Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Britain during World War II, (1874-1965),
Isaac Newton - Scientist, developed the Law of Gravity, (1643-1727)
Lewis Carroll - Author of Alice in Wonderland
Bill Withers, Singer and songwriter
Marilyn Monroe - Actress
James Earl Jones – Actor
Jimmy Stewart – Actor
Bruce Willis – Actor
Mel Tillis - Country-western singer
Tiger Woods - Professional golfer

Once a month, YESS (Youth Experience Stuttering Support) a support group for children between the ages of 6 and 12 and their parents hold a monthly meeting at the Callier Center - Dallas facility. Information can be found online at www.callier.utdallas.edu/events.html for dates and times.
The Infant Learning Project, a research program at the Callier Center - Richardson, studies infants’ processing of communicative signals during the first year of life.

This research project is conducted by Dr. Melanie Spence, Associate Professor in the School of Behavior and Brain Sciences. Dr. Spence trains both graduate and undergraduate students in infant development and research methodology. Dr. Spence and the graduate students are currently exploring prelinguistic infants’ perception of others’ communicative intent and emotion.

This work examines:

1. How and when infants differentiate infant-directed speech vocalizations that communicate different messages.
2. At what age infants discriminate videotaped facial expressions conveying positive and negative emotions. A collaborative project with Dr. Susan Jerger studies the impact of facial movement on infants’ speech perception.

Infants’ processing of speech and facial signals is assessed using procedures that measure infants’ attention and responsiveness to different types of information. These procedures allow researchers to understand how infants perceive information before they are capable of verbal communication. Previous findings from Dr. Spence’s research have shown that discrimination of approving and comforting speech passages develops between 4 and 6 months of age and that infants’ discrimination of happy and disgust videotaped facial expressions develops between 6 and 10 months.

More information about this research program or participating in this research can be found at http://bbs.utdallas.edu/ilp/ and http://bbs.utdallas.edu/staff_faculty/faculty/spence.html.
Communicating throughout the life span


Ear Tubes Don't Improve Children's Development

Thomas Campbell and Chris Dollaghan were among the authors of a widely publicized article that appeared in the January 18th issue of New England Journal of Medicine. The article reported the final results of a long-term study of children with severe and persistent middle ear infections (OME) that asked whether tympanostomy (or "ear") tubes lead to improvements in such children's speech, language, cognitive, reading, and other skills. The report described findings from 391 otherwise healthy children (9-11 years of age) who had severe, persistent OME prior to age 3; half were randomly assigned to receive ear tubes promptly and half to receive tubes 6-9 months later. If tubes were beneficial to children's development, scores from the early-treatment group should have been higher than scores from the delayed treatment group. However, no group differences were found in reading, attention, auditory processing, or psychosocial scores.

Together with similar results for the early- and delayed-treatment groups at ages 3, 4, and 6 years, the findings suggest that prompt placement of tympanostomy tubes does not improve developmental outcomes for children similar to those studied, and that a conservation management approach is warranted. In an editorial accompanying the report, Berman (2007) notes that the findings have reshaped the management of OME and shifted the focus away from OME to other potentially modifiable influences on children's development.


Preschoolers Get an Apprenticeship in Reading Comprehension

Anne van Kleeck was the lead author of a cutting-edge study that was published in the February 2006 issue of the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology. The article reported a small intervention study conducted with 20 preschoolers in Head Start who had language delays. Unlike the vast majority of research conducted in the last decade that has been aimed at preparing preschoolers to learn to decode print (translate letters into the sounds of spoken words), this study tested an intervention focused on preparing preschoolers for the demands of later reading comprehension by challenging them to think critically about information in stories read to them.

The intervention consisted of reading storybooks to the children individually twice a week for eight weeks. Embedded in the storybooks were literacy and inferential questions. The inferential questions required the children to think beyond the story as presented and to answer questions, the adult reader supplied an appropriate response in order to model the kind of thinking the question required.

After just eight weeks of twice weekly fifteen minute reading sessions, the children receiving the intervention made significantly greater gains on standardized tests of vocabulary and inferential language than did a group of very similar children who had not received the intervention. Other research has established that both of these skills are critically important to reading comprehension in older children. This study offers preliminary evidence of the feasibility of working on language skills that are important to later reading comprehension while children are still in preschool.

Future research is needed to replicate these findings with larger numbers of children, and to directly compare if such interventions during preschool help prevent the reading comprehension difficulties that many school-aged children with language delays experience.


She Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby

by Executive Director Emiterus, Dr. Ross J. Roeser

The thrill that movie goers feel when watching Harrison Ford in his role as the legendary Indiana Jones in Raiders of the Lost Arc became a reality for me as I continued my genealogical quest into Lena Callier's background. It all began with an email inquiry from Mr. Miles Garner, who lives in Kershaw, South Carolina, who wanted to know if the Callier Center was still in existence. He said he was preparing material for his family's history and was going to include information about Callier. This led to a couple of email exchanges and eventually a phone conversation. Seems that as a boy Mr. Garner's developed a fascination for Civil War history due to the battle and personal tales his relatives spun. This led him to write two intriguing volumes filled with genealogical data—both of which I eagerly purchased. One such relative was Burrell Christmas Evans (1844-1889), "Christmas," of course, was Mr. Evans middle name because he was born on Christmas Day. From here, the story gets quite involved, much too involved for this short column. Those interested can borrow Mr. Garner's books from me. A short version follows.

Burrell must have been quite a force in South Carolina at the age of twelve years he delivered the valedictory oratory which was attended by one thousand to twelve hundred people at his grade school alma mater, White Plains Academy; he attended the famed Citadel military academy; he was a Confederate soldier; and following the Civil War he ran for political office in South Carolina. Although elected, because of “carpetbagger and scalawag” politics, the election was overturned. Upset because of the election, in 1872 Mr. Evans moved from South Carolina to Ft. Worth where his entrepreneurial prowess made him one of the most successful and wealthiest men in North Texas of that era. He established the B. C. Evans Company, large land owner and stockholder, and one of the directors of the National Bank of Ft. Worth. Unfortunately, in 1899 while sitting at his desk one day Mr. Evans was shot to death by one of his disgruntled employees.

How does this all relate to Mrs. Lena E. Callier? Well, it turns out that Mr. Evans was Lena's father; the "E" in her middle name standing for Evans. Lena was the oldest daughter, and she had a brother Albert and sister Ethel. Lena and Albert had no children, but Ethel did, and several descendants are living in Ft. Worth today. A luncheon meeting with two of them a few months ago revealed several other interesting facts, but most importantly they sent me a photo of Lena, the first I'd ever seen. What a thrill it was to be able to visualize Callier's namesake for the first time.

As more information is being uncovered, there are more interesting facts about Lena Evans Callier that explain her decision to establish the trust for those with communication problems resulting from hearing loss. For now, I share with you her photo. Described as being "small in stature," Lena certainly had to have been a beautiful baby. Adorned with her pearl necklace and elegantly dressed, she was a beautiful woman.

It is gratifying to finally be able to see the likeness of the person who made the Callier Center for Communication Disorders a reality. I can't wait until her photo is prominently displayed to commemorate her legacy.

Comments

about this newsletter should be marked to Dr. Ross J. Roeser, Ear T ubes Don’t Improve Children’s Development

Ear Tubes Don’t Improve Children’s Development

Executive Director

Thomas Campbell, PhD

Executive Director Emeritus

Ross J. Roesser, PhD

Richardson Facility Director & Director of Clinical Operations

Donise Pearson, MS

Director of Development & External Relations

Susie Brown, BA

Public Information Officer

Eloise Newman, BA

Division Heads

Audiology

Lee Wilson, AuD

Business

Judy Lewis

Communication Disorders

Robert Stillman, PhD

Computer Services

James Latham, MBS

Education

Karen Clark, MA

Psychology

Teresa Nezworski, PhD

Speech-Language Pathology

Donise Pearson, MS

Research summaries

For more information consult the E. Evans and M. Davis (2007) research summaries Ear T ubes Don’t Improve Children’s Development
Dr. George Moushegian, "Dr. M" as he was known to generations of students at the University of Texas at Dallas, died of natural causes, at the age of 83 years, on January 15, 2006. Of the many contributions made, Professor Moushegian is known for his research in auditory evoked potentials, as well as the past Director of the Callier Center in Dallas, Texas.

He was born and spent his early years in Detroit, Michigan. Shortly after enlisting, he was sent by the U.S. Army in 1943, to Harvard University to pursue a PhD in Psychology under the mentorship of Dr. Lloyd Jeffress. After his discharge in 1946, he received his Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree at Wayne State University. Six years later he earned his PhD in Psychology at The University of Texas at Austin under the mentorship of Dr. Lloyd Jeffress. Dr. Moushegian embarked on a long and illustrious research career spanning auditory physiology and psycho-acoustics with post-doctoral research work at the Walter Reed Army Research Center under the direction of Dr. Robert Gambloms. His research and educational career took him to Syracuse University and finally to the University of Texas at Dallas - Callier Hearing and Speech Center (now called Callier Center for Communication Disorders) in 1968. Over his 28 year tenure at UT Dallas, he was Director of the Callier Center, Dean of School of Human Development at UT Dallas for 4 years, primary investigator for various research programs. A few of his most notable accomplishments include: participating in the President’s committee on Mental Retardation, advisory member for the Department of Health Education and Welfare, first appointee to the endowed Margaret Fonde Jonsson Chair in School of Human Development at UTD, and founding researcher at the Callier Center. He is considered a pioneer of hearing science due to developing an extensive and well-respected research laboratory at the Callier Center.

Mandy Maguire is the author of a soon to be published article on what conditions are best for teaching novel verb labels to children. Theoretically there are two distinct arguments about how children are best able to do this. Many researchers in language acquisition claim, that many different exemplars of an action allow children to abstract dynamic information independent from any particular object or actor (e.g., Behrend, 1995; Gentner, 2003). However, work on dynamic category formation posits that fewer or familiar agents or objects allow children to focus on an action’s relational features (Cassasola, 2005; Kerner & Smith, 2001). This was the first study to investigate toddlers’ ability to learn and extend a novel verb label when exposed to one exemplar versus multiple exemplars of an action.

In a simple study, 31 and 37-month-olds were shown either four different actors performing a novel intransitive action or a clip of one actor repeated 4 times as it was labeled with a novel name (“blicking”). At test children saw two novel actors on a split screen, one performing the target action and the other performing a novel, intransitive action. The experimenter asked the child “which one is blicking?” and recorded the child’s pointing response.

My sincere thanks to the UTD-Callier community for the gracious welcome and terrific support I have received during my first 5 months as Executive Director. It is hard to believe that the time has gone by so quickly. As spring arrives and I emerge from what could be considered the Callier equivalent of “basic training”, I can clearly see what makes the Callier Center so special – the staff, faculty, students and the patients and families that we serve. Over the past several weeks I have been asked more than once, “Tom, what is your vision for the Callier Center?”

Communication disorders are a major public health issue, affecting 5-10% of the US population with an estimated cost of more than 150 billion dollars per year.

What do you want it to be? My answer is quite simple. I would like to guide this outstanding and well-established regional Center toward becoming a national and international resource in the prevention, identification and treatment of communication disorders in children and adults. Communication disorders are a major public health issue, affecting 5-10% of the US population with an estimated cost of more than 150 billion dollars per year. The Callier Center has long been a resource for clinical services to Texans of all ages with communication disorders, ranging from infants with profound hearing losses to elders suffering from the after effects of stroke. Callier’s client base of nearly 40,000 patient visits per year, coupled with its history of path-breaking research, has positioned it extraordinarily well for a leadership role in the next wave of clinical research. This research will aim to apply the most current evidence concerning the genetic, neurological, and environmental causes of communication disorders and the most efficient and effective means of treating them. Leadership in this effort will require us to expand our collaborations with the Dallas community and the cadre of nationally renowned researchers at the University of Texas at Dallas, as well as researchers from other universities from around the world. This is a time in the history of the Callier Center and the field of communication disorders that has enormous opportunities for advancing our understanding of the causes, effects, and treatment of communication disorders in order to maximize the quality of life of people across the life span who have difficulty engaging in the most basic human skill of communication. I look forward to working with all of you to make the Callier Center a central resource in this exciting endeavor.

Tom Campbell

Mandy Maguire is the author of a soon to be published article on what conditions are best for teaching novel verb labels to children. Theoretically there are two distinct arguments about how children are best able to do this. Many researchers in language acquisition claim, that many different exemplars of an action allow children to abstract dynamic information independent from any particular object or actor (e.g., Behrend, 1995; Gentner, 2003). However, work on dynamic category formation posits that fewer or familiar agents or objects allow children to focus on an action’s relational features (Cassasola, 2005; Kerner & Smith, 2001). This was the first study to investigate toddlers’ ability to learn and extend a novel verb label when exposed to one exemplar versus multiple exemplars of an action.

In a simple study, 31 and 37-month-olds were shown either four different actors performing a novel intransitive action or a clip of one actor repeated 4 times as it was labeled with a novel name (“blicking”). At test children saw two novel actors on a split screen, one performing the target action and the other performing a novel, intransitive action. The experimenter asked the child “which one is blicking?” and recorded the child’s pointing response.

My sincere thanks to the UTD-Callier community for the gracious welcome and terrific support I have received during my first 5 months as Executive Director. It is hard to believe that the time has gone by so quickly. As spring arrives and I emerge from what could be considered the Callier equivalent of “basic training”, I can clearly see what makes the Callier Center so special – the staff, faculty, students and the patients and families that we serve. Over the past several weeks I have been asked more than once, “Tom, what is your vision for the Callier Center?”

Communication disorders are a major public health issue, affecting 5-10% of the US population with an estimated cost of more than 150 billion dollars per year.

What do you want it to be? My answer is quite simple. I would like to guide this outstanding and well-established regional Center toward becoming a national and international resource in the prevention, identification and treatment of communication disorders in children and adults. Communication disorders are a major public health issue, affecting 5-10% of the US population with an estimated cost of more than 150 billion dollars per year. The Callier Center has long been a resource for clinical services to Texans of all ages with communication disorders, ranging from infants with profound hearing losses to elders suffering from the after effects of stroke. Callier’s client base of nearly 40,000 patient visits per year, coupled with its history of path-breaking research, has positioned it extraordinarily well for a leadership role in the next wave of clinical research. This research will aim to apply the most current evidence concerning the genetic, neurological, and environmental causes of communication disorders and the most efficient and effective means of treating them. Leadership in this effort will require us to expand our collaborations with the Dallas community and the cadre of nationally renowned researchers at the University of Texas at Dallas, as well as researchers from other universities from around the world. This is a time in the history of the Callier Center and the field of communication disorders that has enormous opportunities for advancing our understanding of the causes, effects, and treatment of communication disorders in order to maximize the quality of life of people across the life span who have difficulty engaging in the most basic human skill of communication. I look forward to working with all of you to make the Callier Center a central resource in this exciting endeavor.

Tom Campbell

Mandy Maguire is the author of a soon to be published article on what conditions are best for teaching novel verb labels to children. Theoretically there are two distinct arguments about how children are best able to do this. Many researchers in language acquisition claim, that many different exemplars of an action allow children to abstract dynamic information independent from any particular object or actor (e.g., Behrend, 1995; Gentner, 2003). However, work on dynamic category formation posits that fewer or familiar agents or objects allow children to focus on an action’s relational features (Cassasola, 2005; Kerner & Smith, 2001). This was the first study to investigate toddlers’ ability to learn and extend a novel verb label when exposed to one exemplar versus multiple exemplars of an action.

In a simple study, 31 and 37-month-olds were shown either four different actors performing a novel intransitive action or a clip of one actor repeated 4 times as it was labeled with a novel name (“blicking”). At test children saw two novel actors on a split screen, one performing the target action and the other performing a novel, intransitive action. The experimenter asked the child “which one is blicking?” and recorded the child’s pointing response.