



Newsletter

July 2008

STAR Update



With only 60 visits left and counting, 4½-year STAR visits are nearing completion. Thank you to all the parents who have continued with the study. If your child has not completed their 4 ½-year STAR visit please contact us at 336-334-4574 to set up your appointment. We will conclude our 4 ½-year visits at the end of September.

Moving

If you have moved out of town, or even out of the state, there are still ways for you to participate. We can make travel arrangements for you to visit Greensboro or we will visit you at your new location. Please keep us up to date with any changes to your contact information.



Meet the Staff

Rebecca Anderson is the Data Manager for the STAR Project. She has her BS in Human Development and Family Studies with a concentration in Early Care and Education. She helps with the visits as well as with coding and organizing the data. She will begin the MS program in Conflict Resolution in the fall here at UNCG. In her spare time she enjoys playing tennis and jogging with her four dogs.

Investigator Spotlight



Investigator Spotlight: Dr. Stuart Marcovitch

Dr. Stuart Marcovitch is one of the primary investigators on the STAR Project.

Dr. Marcovitch teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses addressing research methods and cognitive psychology. In his research, Dr. Marcovitch focuses on the development of learning and memory processes, specifically the conscious control of behavior in childhood and across the lifespan.

Recently, Dr. Marcovitch published an article on how 4 and 5-year-old children maintain goals in memory, in the journal *Developmental Science*. Children were presented with a rule for a card sorting task. Next, children were told to switch their goal and follow a new rule when sorting the cards. He found that children need to keep the present goal in mind at all times in order to remember which rule to follow in order to accomplish a goal.

In addition to his work with the STAR Project, Dr. Marcovitch is involved with other research projects. He is a co-investigator for the Cognition, Affect, and Psychophysiology (CAP) Project which is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and looks at the development of attention and memory in young children. Participants for this study are mothers and children in Guilford County who are followed from 5 to 10 months of age.

In our next issue - Dr. Nayena Blankson

<u>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</u>	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ STAR update ➤ Moving ➤ Meet the Staff ➤ STAR Investigator Spotlight
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 Memories to give Children ➤ Bubble Burst Painting ➤ Prepare for Kindergarten ➤ Keep in Touch



6 Memories To Give Children

1. Tuck your child into bed at night
2. Make up stories to tell your child and encourage them to do the same
3. Lie in the grass and look at the clouds together. What animals can you see?
4. Play hide-and-seek with your child at dusk
5. Take a walk together in the summer rain
6. Tell them "I love you" often

Bubble Burst Painting



Materials:

- 1 Cup Bubble Solution
- 4 Tablespoons Tempera Paint
- OR
- 30 drops of Food Coloring
- Large Piece of Paper
- Tape
- Old shirt or Smock

What to do:

Mix the Paint/Food Coloring in with the Bubble Solution. Tape the Paper on a fence or between two trees. Blow bubbles and watch them burst on the paper to create a masterpiece!

Prepare for Kindergarten



1. Get your child excited about starting school. It's an exciting time and they should feel proud. By showing them that you're excited and proud of them, they will begin to feel the same way.
2. Talk to your child about what school will be like. Discuss basic classroom rules (e.g., not talking out of turn). Have them pretend play that they are in school already. If possible, visit the school with your child prior to the first day so they know what to expect when they attend.
3. Get your child excited about learning. Encourage him/her to explore new things in his/her environment (with supervision).
4. Prepare your child's mind for school. Encourage your child to practice writing or reading (even if it's made up). Read a book to him/her or tell stories and then ask questions to help him/her fully understand the meaning of the story.
5. Have your child practice saying his/her name, address, and phone number in case they are in need of help.

Keep in touch!



Please contact Pam Dover with address or phone number changes. You can reach her by e-mail pldover@uncg.edu or by phone 336-334-4574. Thanks!

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Greensboro, NC 27402
P.O. Box 26170
248 Stone Bldg.
STAR Project
Family Research Center

