



Happy New Year!



The Research in Developmental Disabilities and Language (RIDDLL) Lab would like to wish you a happy new year this 2023! There are many exciting developments in the lab, including new grants funded by the National Institutes of Health, new lab members, and noteworthy publications! As always, if you are interested in the work we are doing or would like more information on how to get involved, please reach out to us at: riddl@waisman.wisc.edu or visit our website: <https://riddll.waisman.wisc.edu/>.

New Projects

We have exciting new opportunities to participate in research!

Study on Language and Executive Functioning: Dr. Audra Sterling is leading a new study on the links between language (such as grammar) and executive functioning (such as planning and memory) among individuals with fragile X syndrome (ages 9-16), Down syndrome (ages 9-16), developmental language disorder (ages 4-6), and neurotypical development (ages 3-5). We are excited to learn more about how language and learning work together. This study is a partnership with the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



The Lab celebrates the end of the semester!

Study on Language and the *FMR1* Premutation: Dr. Nell Maltman is leading a new study on links between language, executive functioning, and quality of life among men and women who do and do not carry the *FMR1* premutation (ages 30-65). We are hoping to learn more about how these areas are affected among people who might be at risk for a disorder called fragile X-associated tremor/ataxia syndrome.



Lab members enjoy some spooky fun at the Children's Museum of Madison!

Recent Events

The lab has been busy this fall! We attended lots of community events including a Night of Science at the Children's Museum of Madison and the Down Syndrome Awareness Walk. We presented our recent findings at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association conference in New Orleans. In Oregon, WI, we collaborated with the school district to conduct hearing and language screenings.



Lab members get silly at the Down syndrome Awareness Walk!

Who is in the lab?

Audra Sterling: Lab Director

Nell Maltman: Research Scientist

Susen Schroeder: Lab Manager

Marianne Elmquist: Postdoctoral fellow

Claudia Schabes: Graduate student (see lab member spotlight)

Alyssa Ewell: Graduate student

Kelsey Reis: Graduate student

Kaylee Commet: Graduate student

Jonathan Fritz: Capstone student

Grace Geyso: Undergraduate student

Recent Lab Alumni

Emily Lorang: Started a postdoctoral fellowship at Michigan State University.

Lily Beckers: Started a clinical fellowship in speech-language pathology at Frasier in Minnesota.

Melissa Hauptman: Started graduate school in speech-language at the University of Illinois.

Hayley Bazarek: Started graduate school in speech-language at the University of Wisconsin.

We miss them and wish them luck in their exciting new endeavors!

Stay tuned for another newsletter this spring/summer!

