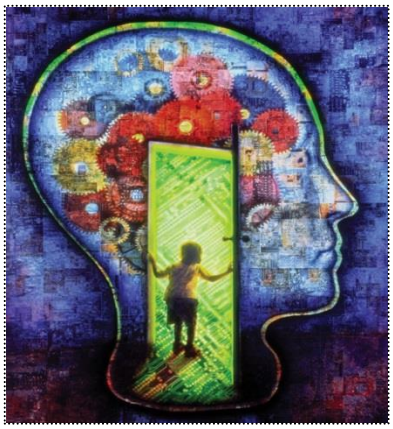
EBRL Study Update

Vanderbilt University



GRANT INFORMATION

Cognitive and Neural Processes in Reading Comprehension Years 11-15

THIS WORK WAS SUPPORTED BY NIH GRANT R-01 HD044073. THE CONTENT IS SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUTHORS AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF THE NIH.

Principal Investigator

Dr. Laurie Cutting

To Families Participating in the RC3 Study:

Happy Holidays! Thank you for your continued participation in our reading research project. Enclosed is a small gift for your child to express our gratitude.

Study Progress

This year, we discontinued seeking new participants and rounded out the study at 200 participants (92 participants in Cohort 1 and 108 participants in Cohort 2). We are pleased to be able to share that our current retention rates are at 75% for Cohort 1 and 82% for Cohort 2. Retention rates are very important for our lab's continued funding, so we thank you for the part you are playing in our lab's success.

Lab Updates

Our lab has seen many successes over the course of the last year! Our Principal Investigator, Laurie Cutting, was awarded the NIH Merit Award: an award for which you cannot apply, meaning that it is only awarded to the most distinctly outstanding researchers. She has also been awarded the Women in Cognitive Sciences Leadership Award for 2018. We are so proud of her commitment to furthering science! In addition, we wish to offer our congratulations to one of our lab members, Stephen Bailey, who successfully completed his dissertation in October. We are so happy to celebrate Dr. Bailey's accomplishments!

We moved! Our fall participants visited us at our new location in Vanderbilt's Sony Building. We hope you have found it to be a welcoming and hospitable atmosphere. Our lab looks forward to hosting our Spring and Summer participants here shorty.

Lastly, if you have not yet received a report from your child's visit we apologize. The move of our lab along with technical issues has delayed the process. We are working hard to get them out to you as quickly as possible!

Thank you again for your support of this research!

Sincerely,
EBRL Team

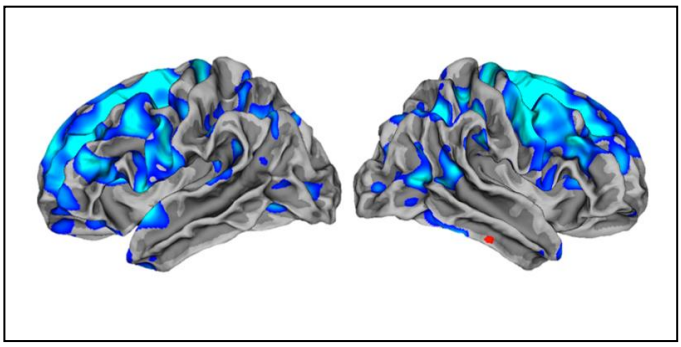
Findings from members of our team:

Our lab recently filed for patent protection of a new measure for how hard text is to read out loud- also known as "decodability." This new decoding measure is important for creating texts that are appropriately matched to young readers. Eventually we hope to use this measure to individualize the reading process. Specifically, we are working to create a tool that recommends books based on an individual's unique knowledge of different letter-sound information. We used your children's oral reading data to help us refine the tool and examine its effectiveness- so thank you for participating in our studies.

--Neena Saha
Ph.D. Student

Coming soon: What is our brain doing in real-time when we learn new information? One of our upcoming projects will look at brain activations during the moment a child reads something new that he/she remembers later. We will also look at what qualities those moments in the stories have that make them more memorable. For instance, are they social interactions or scientific information? Answering these questions will help us understand why the brain learns new information from reading.

--Katherine Aboud
Ph.D. Student



Participants from the RC3 Longitudinal study were included in a larger study that asks how early home reading and literacy environments contribute to brain development. For example, active shared reading time between parents and children influences the brain regions highlighted in blue shown above.

--Tin Nguyen
Ph.D. Student

Study Enrollment Opportunities at EBRL

Neurobiology and Treatment of Reading Disability in NF1

This study is evaluating the effectiveness of a medication called Lovastatin and reading interventions in treating reading difficulties in children and young adults with and without Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1). If interested in screening for this study, please email or call us using the contact information below!

ATTENTION FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH NEUROFIBROMATOSIS TYPE 1

We are currently looking for individuals ages 8 to 20 with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 to participate in a research study. We are trying to learn more about the best ways to teach people to read.

WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED:

- **Comprehensive evaluation of reading-related skills at Vanderbilt University**
- **4 Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans of the brain**
- **If you or your child meets our study criteria for having problems with reading, you or your child may be invited to participate.**
  - *Participants with NF will be randomly assigned to one of two different groups.*
    1: Reading tutoring program and a medication called Lovastatin
    2: Reading tutoring program and no Lovastatin (placebo)

  Lovastatin is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of reading trouble due to Neurofibromatosis Type 1.
- **Parent and teacher questionnaires**

WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE FOR PARTICIPATING:

- **Travel reimbursement available for NF-1 families living outside middle TN area**
- **Check for $150 for the first visit, $750 for the second visit, and $150 for the last visit.**
- **Report of child's performance on assessment measures (if first visit is completed)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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https://www.facebook.com/educationbrainlab/

Our lab has moved locations! Our new address is:
1400 18th Ave S
Nashville, TN 37212

Coming Soon: Study on Executive Function!

Keep an eye on our website for more information as we prepare for an exciting upcoming study. This research studies brain activity in kindergarteners as it relates to reading development and academic achievement. There is an initial 30- minute screening visit to determine eligibility for the longitudinal study, which follows a child's academic growth through the end of the first grade. It is our hope to recruit participants through local school systems.

Keep us informed:

Please be sure to contact us if your contact information changes or your child has educational or medical updates throughout the year!