Each year, the Child Language Research Lab at Purdue offers a unique program for children with language delays. The Summer Fun program combines language research with speech-language therapy for eligible 4- and 5-year-olds, at no cost to parents. The program will begin on June 14 and end on July 7, meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings in our Preschool facilities in Lyles-Porter Hall on the Purdue campus.

During Summer Fun, children participate in general preschool activities and a variety of fun and language-enriching experiences. They paint t-shirts, have a pretend camping trip, march in a 4th of July “parade”, and sell lemonade at a stand. Each child has individualized communication goals, which are addressed during daily half-hour therapy sessions, as well as in the classroom. Children may work on articulation, descriptive language, social communication, and school readiness skills. Parents are provided with a written report and the opportunity to meet with clinical staff at the end of the program to discuss their child’s progress.

Who
4- to 5-year-old children with a significant delay in language development, but without hearing impairment or other developmental delays.

When
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
9:00 -11:30 am
June 14 – July 7, 2016

Where
Lyles-Porter Hall

Compensation
Parents receive $9 per session for eligibility testing and for each day of research participation.

Contact
Pat Deevy
(765) 496-1821 or (800) 691-4700
deevy@purdue.edu

Children can be scheduled for eligibility testing starting now and continuing through April.
Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are all different from one another; for example, some are highly talkative and some do not learn to speak at all. As the term "spectrum" implies, many different behaviors are seen in these children. However, to receive a diagnosis of ASD, a child must show difficulty in social interaction and verbal and nonverbal communication. Many children with ASD also show limited and repetitive behaviors, such as repeatedly spinning wheels on a toy car, rocking, or hand waving. According to the Center for Disease Control, ASD affects 1 in 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls.

A major goal of researchers and clinicians is to find indicators of ASD that begin in infancy or very early childhood; if these children can be diagnosed early, intervention activities can begin when they are most powerful. Many researchers (including several working as part of the Purdue Autism Cluster; see list below) are working on determining early indicators of ASD. The Autism Speaks website lists some possible early indicators, or "red flags." Although children often develop various skills at different paces, usually children with ASD show several of these "red flags," not just one or two.

- Babies don’t use big smiles or other expressions of joy by the time they are 6 months or older
- Babies and toddlers don’t engage in back-and-forth social play, such as imitation of sounds, smiles, or play gestures
- Babies and toddlers don’t babble by 12 months (i.e., production of sounds like "bababa" and "mamamama")
- Toddlers don’t use back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing, reaching, or waving by 12 months
- Toddlers don’t use real words by 16 months
- Toddlers don’t use meaningful two-word phrases by 24 months (not including imitated or repeated phrases)
- It is a concern when children of any age show loss of babbling, speech, or social abilities
- Babies and toddlers should be responsive when they are called by name; they should turn, smile, or acknowledge that they are being talked to
- Babies and toddlers may show delays in motor development

Careful diagnosis is important. Some of the symptoms described above, such as late babbling or talking, may also be seen in children with specific language impairment or hearing impairment. If you have any concerns about your child, it is recommended that you ask for an evaluation. Below we list some contacts at Purdue that may be helpful. You can also always contact First Steps, your school, or your pediatrician.

**Researchers in the Purdue Autism Cluster Study Children with ASD**

**Brandon Keehn**, Ph.D.
Attention and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (AtteND) Lab
Contact: attendlab@purdue.edu; 765-496-0204
Website: http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~bkeehn/

**A. J. Schwichtenberg**, Ph.D.
Developmental Studies Laboratory
Contact: ajlab@purdue.edu; 765-494-6610

**Bridgette Tonnsen**, Ph.D.
Neurodevelopmental Family Lab
Contact: nddfamilylab@purdue.edu
Website: http://nddfamilylab.weebly.com

**Oliver Wendt**, Ph.D.
Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Autism Research Lab
Website: http://speakmod.com/ and www.purdue.edu/hhs/slhs/directory/faculty/wendt_oliver.php

**Children sought for study of sound production learning**

We are looking for children with speech sound disorders for a study on how children learn speech sounds.

- Children must be 4 or 5 years old
- Children must speak English, and/or Spanish.
- 2-3 one-hour sessions
- Compensation: $10 per visit and children receive a toy for each session.
- Free speech, language, and hearing assessment.

Contact: (765) 496-0345 or childspeech@purdue.edu

Child Phonology Lab
Dr. Françoise Brosseau-Lapré, Director
Purdue’s child language researchers are interested in understanding more about a variety of speech and language delays. As part of our research, we often carry out assessments of a child’s speech, language, and hearing. If you think your child may have any speech or language difficulties, we may be able to provide you with input and referrals based on the results of these research assessments.

Note that families are always paid for research participation. Because this testing is part of research, there is no charge.

Below is a list of our research programs with a brief description of the primary areas we study. If you are not sure about which category best fits your child’s difficulties, please do not hesitate to call. We will help you find the program that is the best fit for your child.

Purdue Stuttering Project
If you think your child may be stuttering, that is, repeating the first sound or the first syllable of words (for example duh duh duh daddy), we can provide an assessment and feedback regarding how to respond to your child’s stuttering and whether therapy should be considered. Contact Barbara Brown at 765-496-6403 or brownb@purdue.edu.

Language in Motion Lab
We study how speech, language, and motor skills develop in 4- to 6-year-olds. If you are concerned about your child’s use of words or sentences (e.g., your child shows grammatical errors such as producing “her walk” for “she walks”) and/or about his or her ability to be understood, we invite you to contact our lab. Contact: 765-494-1669; goffmanlab@gmail.com; (www.purdue.edu/languageinmotion).

Research Study: Language and Motor Development
We are looking for children with speech sound disorder (SSD) and suspected childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) to participate in a research project.

- Children must be 4- or 5-years-old;
- Monolingual English speakers
- Duration: 3 sessions
- Compensation: $10/hour and child receives a toy at each visit

Contact: Janet Vuolo at jvuolo@purdue.edu or 765-494-1669

Research Study: Language Development in Children with a History of Language Delay
We are looking for 8- to 14-year-old children who have a history of language delay. To be eligible, your child would have been diagnosed with a language delay as a preschooler (age 3-5).

Your child may or may not currently have language difficulties (i.e., making errors in words, understanding spoken directions, or reading). Compensation: $10/hr and child receives a toy at each visit.

Contact Dr. Natalya Kaganovich at kaganovi@purdue.edu or call 765-494-4423 and leave a message.