

Welcome to the Community!

Visit the [online directory](#) to view new members!

Be sure to stay up to date on all National Living Lab [news](#) on our website!

Mark Your Calendars!

Visit us on the web to learn more about our upcoming [Regional Meetings](#) in Baltimore, MD, Madison, WI and Portland, OR.

Want to Contribute?

Email livinglab@mos.org with your newsletter ideas.

News from the Project Team

The National Living Lab team has worked closely with the American Psychological Association to raise awareness about public misconceptions of psychological sciences. An article in APA's online newsletter discusses how Living Laboratory® offers a new model for building public understanding of psychology as a STEM discipline. Read the full article: [A great match: Psychological scientists and museum educators.](#)

Feature Article: Inside Living Laboratory at Maryland Science Center

Living Laboratory in the Kids Room at Maryland Science Center celebrated its 2nd birthday in December 2013! Our collaboration with researchers from the Laboratory for Child Development at Johns Hopkins University began in December of 2011 and has grown to become an integral part of the Kids Room experience. Under the guidance of Dr. Lisa Feigenson, researchers brought four different research projects into the museum investigating children's spatial memory, children's algebraic sense, the role of surprise in learning, and the limits of infant memory. With a relatively consistent group of visiting researchers, museum staff and researchers are able to build strong relationships and really learn and grow from our partnership.



Graduate student Aimee Stahl explores the role of surprise in learning

Our Living Laboratory team has worked to invite staff from different departments of the Maryland Science Center to engage with researchers over the past two years. From our CEO, to our Guest Services Manager, and many members of our Education staff, individuals from different parts of our organization were introduced to Living Laboratory through interaction with researchers. We love how the greeting process makes it easy for us to introduce staff who would not normally be in the Kids Room to this exciting program.

To better equip our Kids Room staff, they have participated in several trainings to strengthen their ability to facilitate [research toys](#) (engaging, hands-on, table-top educational materials that illustrate emerging research in child development science) on the floor of the museum. We have used video, discussion, and role play to help them better understand how research is done and how they can help adult caregivers better engage with their children through the research toys we bring out onto the floor. One of our educators was so fascinated by the reaction when she brought [Blickets](#), an unusual magnet toy, out with a group from Maryland School for the Deaf that a few months later she tried [Novel Toy](#), which is very tactile, with a group from Maryland School for the Blind. Facilitating research toys with a wide variety of visitors continues to provide learning opportunities not only for children and adult caregivers, but for our staff as well.

We are excited to showcase the Living Laboratory at the Maryland Science Center at our upcoming National Living Lab Regional Meeting on March 7th and 8th, 2014. For more information on how you can attend one of our Regional Meetings click [here!](#)

Join the Community!

Living Laboratory® aims to educate the public about child development by immersing museum visitors in the process of scientific discovery through partnerships with local research institutions. Initially developed in the Discovery Center at the Museum of Science, the program receives support from the National Science Foundation under award #1113648. The National Living Lab initiative aims to assist researchers and informal science educators in collaboration efforts that foster public awareness, engagement, and understanding of the scientific study of children's learning and development. There are no costs associated with joining the community or accessing the available online resources. If you have not yet joined, please fill out the online [registration form](#).

Contact Us!

To learn more about any of the newsletter articles or to contact the National Living Lab Project Team, please email livinglab@mos.org.

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Living Laboratory

Developed at the
Museum of Science, Boston

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