

## 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!

There is still time to register for the West-Coast/Southwest Regional Symposium in Portland, OR! Visit us on the web to learn more about this upcoming [Regional Meetings](#).

## Want to Contribute?

Email [livinglab@mos.org](mailto:livinglab@mos.org) with your newsletter ideas.

## News from the Project Team

Each month the Project Team links to resources on the National Living Lab website. In order to view these materials, you must register and log in. Signing up for [livinglab.org](#) is free and easy! Click [here](#) to get started!

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Research and Learning Center launched at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. The Research and Learning Center is based on Living Laboratory and is a partnership between the Fort Worth museum and the University of Texas at Arlington College of Education and Health Professions. This collaboration allows museums guests to interact with scientists through participation in current research studies and discussions about how the research impacts their day-to-day lives. Learn more [here](#)!

## Feature Article: Inside Living Laboratory at OMSI

Since 2011, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) has had the pleasure of working with the Psychology Department at Lewis and Clark College to engage in enriching professional development and to give visitors the opportunity to participate in current research as part of Living Laboratory.

For the past two years, researchers, museum professionals, volunteers, and museum visitors have been learning from each other in Living Laboratory, and together we have reached some exciting milestones. As of December 2013, Lewis and Clark faculty and their undergraduate researchers have been present on the floor for over 250 cumulative hours, have gathered data from over 1,000 visitor participants and have reached a further 1,100 visitors through "educational opportunities" (interactions between visitors and researchers about a current research study, the scientific method or the field of child development at large where data is not being recorded.)

Additionally, OMSI staff have reached over 1,700 visitors with [research toys](#) (engaging, hands-on, table-top educational materials that illustrate emerging research in child development science). Visitors have responded enthusiastically to the first research toy developed at OMSI: *Dance and Emotion*, which was inspired by ongoing research at the University of Washington on children's development of emotional recognition. We have had 70 different staff members participate in researcher [greetings](#), where museum educators and collaborating researchers talk about updates to studies, recruitment strategies, interpretation techniques and program logistics! Museum professionals have also held trainings for researchers and volunteers, provided informative lunches at OMSI to raise awareness on the project, and researchers' work has been highlighted in weekend programming at the museum. It has been busy, and we are continuing to go full steam ahead!

On top of the regular hustle and bustle of Living Laboratory, we are getting ready for the West-Coast/Southwest Regional Symposium, and we invite you to come to Portland on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, to learn more about our program and partnership with Lewis and Clark, as well as other partnerships around the West Coast and Southwest region! We will be sharing materials and tools you can use to start a similar partnership in your community. If you're interested in joining the conversation, please email Annie Douglass ([adouglass@omsi.edu](mailto:adouglass@omsi.edu)) for more details about the event. There is funding to support travel costs for participants, and we would love to include additional professionals interested in learning more about Living Laboratory.



Professor Erik Nilsen observes a young museum visitor engaging with the research stimuli.

## Research Spotlight: Wicked Desires

Does it always feel good to get what you want? University of Michigan researchers in Living Laboratory at the Hands-On Museum in Ann Arbor, MI are currently investigating this question with young children by exploring what children understand about how emotions relate to rights and wrongs. In this study, children are shown both recognizable and novel villains and asked to make predictions about what these characters might do in different types of situations. Learn more [here](#)!

## Congratulations to our Johns Hopkins Researchers!

Research run through Living Laboratory at Maryland Science Center by post-doctoral fellow Melissa Kibbe and associate professor of psychological and brain sciences Lisa Feigenson has been recently published in Developmental Science. This study found that most preschoolers and kindergarteners can do basic algebra naturally. To learn more, visit [Johns Hopkins University online](#).

## 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](mailto:livinglab@mos.org).

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