

Welcome to the Community!

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

Stay up to date on all [news](#) on our website!

Mark Your Calendars!

Connect with community members at::

- Association of Children's Museums Interactivity 2014 MarketPlace in Phoenix, AZ from May 14th-16th
- Alliance of American Museum's Marketplace of Ideas in Seattle, WA from May, 18th-21st

Want to Contribute?

Email livinglab@mos.org with your newsletter ideas.

News from the Project Team

With the success of the Spring 2014 Regional Meetings, our community has grown! Please take a moment and review your profile on our [member directory](#) to ensure that we have the most current contact information!

Living Laboratory Collaboration: Wesleyan Cognitive Development Labs and Connecticut Science Center

On March 2nd, 2013, students from the Cognitive Development Labs at Wesleyan University packed up their supplies and traveled to the Connecticut Science Center (CSC) in Hartford, CT to experience their first day as researchers in the newly established Living Laboratory. One year later, the collaboration has flourished. Students from the lab travel to the museum on Saturday mornings (and occasional weekdays during the summer months) to run studies and interact with children and their caregivers. In that year, the students have visited the science center for a cumulative 84 hours and interacted with nearly 340 families, with over 320 children becoming active participants in the research.

These students brought with them studies to explore many different questions: Does group membership influence how children choose to share resources? How do children understand spatial words when they refer to questions about time? Does the way in which options are presented influence children's selections from those options?

To increase the educational impact of the visits, the Cognitive Development Labs created a volunteer program to recruit Wesleyan students who serve as research toy interpreters at the science center. These volunteers travel with the lab researchers running studies and engage families in demonstrations of child development research. The program has nine members actively involved in visiting the museum: a lab coordinator and eight undergraduate students, including three educational volunteers and five lab research assistants. Three research toys are currently in use: a student-designed picture book that shows how language influences color perception, a card task that demonstrates what children know about grammar rules, and a card-sort task that displays children's ability to switch tasks and follow different directions based on certain features of the cards.

Living Laboratory at the CSC has received valuable materials, insight, and assistance from community members at the Museum of Science, Boston; Wesleyan University Department of Psychology; Maryland Science Center; and Johns Hopkins University. Participants in the Northeast Regional Symposium in September 2013 inspired many new ideas, and the [Living Laboratory project](#) provided funding for CSC to purchase supplies to establish Living Laboratory at Connecticut Science Center and foster educational outreach. With this, Living Laboratory now has formal signage and families can take home Child Scientist magnets as a thank you for their participation.



Undergraduate student Rachel Warner conducts the decision making study.

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.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please reply to this email with the subject as "unsubscribe."



Living Laboratory

Developed at the
Museum of Science, Boston

Ask!
Play!
Learn!

LivingLab.org

