

**Faculty mentor:** Anne Fernald

**Research supervisor(s):**

Virginia Marchman, Research Scientist, [marchman@stanford.edu](mailto:marchman@stanford.edu)

**Project topic(s):** How can caregivers support language development in Spanish-learning toddlers and preschoolers?

**Brief description of scientific issues:** We investigate language learning in the first years of life by emerging Spanish-English bilinguals, following children from age 18 months to 8 years. A central question in our research is how infants early experience with language from caregivers at home influences their later language processing efficiency and language development. In particular, how does poverty affect parent-infant interactions in ways that may compromise early language learning and later school success? We also explore the contexts in which primarily Spanish-learning children are learning English and how those contexts also support ongoing maintenance of Spanish. As an RA you will work at our main lab on campus and possibly at our community site in Sunnyvale (easily accessible by Caltrain). Main tasks would be screening experimental sessions, scoring standardized assessments, checking transcriptions of naturalistic interactions, and coding quality of caregiver-child engagement. Native fluency in Spanish is required.

**Skills required:** Native fluency in Spanish, attention to detail, ability to work in teams, good communication skills.

**Skills to be learned:**

Learn coding systems for caregiver-child interactions, gain familiarity with experimental measures of language processing, master transcription conventions using ChiLDES and CLAN, learn about standardized and experimental assessments of language processing, executive function, and early literacy.

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