



Introducing our inaugural Lifespan Labs Newsletter

Dear Friends of Lifespan Labs (Age Lab and BabyLab)

We are thrilled to present to you our very first combined issue of the Lifespan Labs Newsletter, bringing together highlights and updates from both the [Age Lab](#) and [BabyLab](#) at [The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour, and Development](#).

The decision to merge our newsletter stems from a shared vision to create a more cohesive and enriching experience, and to make this a useful resource for our sandwich generation.

Whether you are passionate about understanding the nuances of ageing or captivated by the wonders of early childhood development, they are similar in that they both track change over time. We invite you to explore the research and stories curated for you.

Thank you for being a part of the Lifespan Labs community.

Research Highlights

Our teams have been publishing papers and presenting research findings at international conferences. Learn more about the work done at Age Lab and BabyLab.



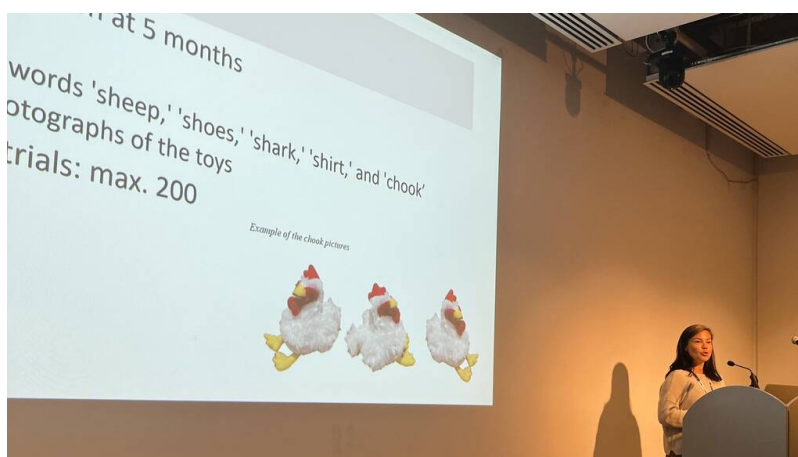
Carers' voices matter when it comes to designing assistive technology. Discover the importance of co-design in shaping the future of dementia care. A study by [Dr Ruth Brookman](#), [A/Prof Celia Harris](#), and team explores carers' perspectives, values, and innovative solutions.

[Read more](#)



Imagine revolutionising cognitive assessment with virtual reality (VR), which could one day help diagnose dementia. [A/Prof Joyce Siette](#) and team developed and tested the effectiveness of a semi-immersive VR game – designed to assess how well a person can remember, recall and complete tasks.

[Read more](#)



[Eylem Altuntas](#) presented research led by [Dr Antonia Goetz](#) and herself at The International Congress of Infant Studies in Glasgow, Scotland.

Her two presentations were (a) *Play sessions lead to successful word recognition in 5-month-old infants*, and (b) *The influence of infants' temperament in parent-infant interactions*.

The key findings from these studies include: (a) 5-month-old infants can establish associations between pictures and objects, and (b) infants' temperament shapes how adults engage in conversation with them (in particular, conversational turns), rather than the total amount of Infant-Directed Speech (i.e., number of words spoken to the infant).

Community Engagement

Discover some of our engagement events from the first half of the year.



Mt Druitt Family Science Day

BabyLab showcased the EEG technology and engaged with the local community at the science festival organised by the [Blacktown City Council](#) and the [Mount Druitt Ethnic Communities Agency](#). Click above to watch the video highlights.

[Read more](#)

Ageing in Place Workshop

Facilitated by Age Lab researchers, the workshop aimed to leverage community engagement in advancing our collective understanding and practices in supporting Australia's ageing population.

[Read more](#)



Western Sydney Innovation, Arts and Culture Festival

BabyLab participated in the Heritage Day festival organised by the [NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure](#).

[Read more](#)



NSW Seniors Festival

The Age Lab Workshop on Healthy Ageing & Brain Health, presented with [City of Parramatta](#) as part of the NSW Seniors Festival, brought together a group of seniors, carers, staff, and researchers.

[Read more](#)



Pop-Up BabyLab Playgroup

BabyLab teamed up with [Playgroup NSW](#) to present a series of playgroups that gathered parents and their babies aged 0 to 12 months, experienced play coordinators, and researchers.

[Read more](#)



Upcoming Events



Powerhouse Science Festival Family Day | 17 Aug 2024

Live demonstrations from MARCS researchers on their work on child development research, cognitive neuroscience, AI, and space technology.

[More info](#)



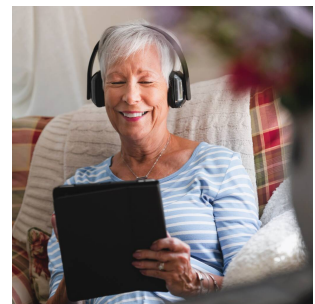
BabyLab Talk @ Parramatta Library | 9 Oct 2024

Why do parents tend to exaggerate pitch, intonation, and rhythm when talking to their babies? Discover the fascinating science behind this unique way of speaking. >> Visit Parramatta Library website for more updates.

Participate in Studies

Help optimise wellbeing of older Australians

The Age Lab aims to understand social, emotional, and cognitive changes across the lifespan, and to develop programs to support healthy ageing.



[Register with Age Lab](#)

Where little humans answer big questions

BabyLab studies offer a window into the minds of infants and young children, helping us understand how humans first acquire language and learn about the world.



[Register with BabyLab](#)

Contact Us

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This email was sent by The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour, and Development, Western Sydney University, Locked Bag 1797, Penrith NSW 2751, Australia

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