**OVERALL QUESTION/MISSION**

How do children learn language?

**Populations of interest:**
- Typically developing (TD) children, teens, and young adults
- Children, teens, and young adults on the autism spectrum

**Q1: What do children (ASD, TD) UNDERSTAND?**

**Method:** Intermodal Preferential Looking (IPL)

**IN ENGLISH**

- Comprehension of wh-questions: TD = ASD
- Syntactic bootstrapping: TD = ASD
- Shape bias: TD yes, ASD no
- Aspect comprehension: TD = ASD

**IN CHINESE**

- SVO order comprehension: TD = ASD
- Shape bias: TD > ASD
- Aspect comprehension: TD = ASD

**Q2: What do children (ASD, TD) SAY?**

**NARRATIVE MACROSTRUCTURE**
- TD = ASD when telling a story from a book
- TD > ASD when asked for a “jab” story; TD = ASD when asked for a “lost keys” story

**VERB ACQUISITION TRAJECTORIES**
- Three latent profiles of longitudinal verb type producers:
  - low production → low production (some ASD, no TD)
  - low production → high production (some ASD, some TD)
  - high production → high production (some ASD, some TD)

**GENDER DIFFERENCES**
- Comparing 3-year-old boys & girls with ASD:
  - Only girls said fire and book
  - Only boys said truck and nose

**Q3: How do dyads TALK TO EACH OTHER?**

**LAB MEMBERS**

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**LINGUISTIC ALIGNMENT:** use of conversation partner’s same language
- Rate: how often aligned
- Level: when aligned, how much

**CHILD-TO-CAREGIVER**
- TD lexical/syntactic rate & syntactic level > ASD
- ASD lexical level > TD

**TEEN-TO-CAREGIVER**
- ASD rate > TD
- TD level > ASD

**Q4: How do INDIVIDUALS’ BRAINS relate to their language usage/development?**

**AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE (ABR)**
Phonetic discrimination mediates the relationship between neural stability and syntactic performance

**DIFFUSION TENSOR IMAGING (DTI)**
Higher ILF fractional anisotropy relates to higher vocabulary

**Q5: What are EARLY PREDICTORS to LATER LANGUAGE?**

**AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE (ABR)**
Phonetic discrimination mediates the relationship between neural stability and syntactic performance

**DIFFUSION TENSOR IMAGING (DTI)**
Higher ILF fractional anisotropy relates to higher vocabulary

**CAREGIVER-TO-CHILD**
- TD caregivers’ rate & level > ASD caregivers
- TD caregivers’ use of generics (cats say meow) > ASD caregivers

**FRIEND-TO-FRIEND**
- Lexical alignment between 8-14-year-old friends positively relates to friendship qualities

**TEENS**
- Categorical induction: TD = ASD
- Gradable adjectives: TD = ASD
- Theory of Mind: TD > ASD

**Speaker A:** should we click the button?
**Speaker B:** yes, click the button.