

Melissa K Wheatley

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Education

University of Kentucky
2nd year student
Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology
Current GPA: 4.0

Bachelor's of Art in Psychology
Indiana University Southeast
4201 Grant Line Road
New Albany, Indiana 47150

Research Interests

I am interested in research that involves the assessment and treatment of children with disabilities and their families. I am also interested in researching the relationship of brain functioning to the behavioral manifestations and cognitive abilities of the child.

Professional Experience

Fall 2008

Certified clinical training in administering the Autism Diagnostic Observation Survey, October 13-14, 2008 Ann Arbor, Michigan.

School-based practicum at Anne Mason Elementary, Georgetown, Kentucky. Duties include cognitive assessments, behavioral observations, teacher consultations, records reviews, attending Individual Education Planning meetings, counseling students, scoring assessments, compiling information from many psychological assessments and designing intervention plans for students with disabilities.

Research Assistant to Dr Jane Joseph in the Brain, Cognition and Development Lab. Perform behavioral tests on test subjects with autism for an fMRI study evaluating face processing in children and adolescents with autism.

- Administer Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised to parents of children/adolescents with autism
- Administer the Autism Diagnostic Observation Survey
- Administer the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test

- Administer the Block Design and Vocabulary Subtests of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-4th edition
- Administer the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory
- Administer Color Vision test
- Perform computer analysis on fMRI images of children and adolescents with and without autism
- Trained in the use of FSL fMRI statistical software
- Evaluating the fMRI statistical results for an object discrimination test to evaluate the face/object recognition regions of the brain in adults and children at different stages of development.

Co-therapist with Dr Lisa Ruble for social skills group/research project for middle school adolescents with High Functioning Autism. Duties include giving Social Skills Triad Assessment, establishing observational ratings of social skills, leading group therapy/social skills training sessions, and working with parents and teachers of these students.

Summer 2008

Poster presentation at the American Psychological Association Conference in August 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts “Child Social Responsiveness and Parental Attachment in Autism” by Melissa Wheatley and Diane Wille.

Spring 2008

Poster presentation at the National Association for School Psychologist annual conference in New Orleans, La. “Quality and Content of IEPs for Children with Autism” by Melissa Wheatley and Lisa Ruble

Began manuscript “Parental Stress and Child Attachment’s relationship to Social Relationships in Adolescence” by Melissa Wheatley and Diane Wille.

Continued work on manuscript Wheatley, M. K., & Wille, D. E. (2008). “*Maternal Attachment Responses to a Child with Autism.*”

Administered the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised to parents of children with autism.

Administered the Behavioral Assessment for Children- Second Edition Self Report and Parent Report

Wrote reports integrating information from Cognitive tests, Achievement tests, and Behavioral tests.

Fall 2007

Entered doctoral program for school psychology at the University of Kentucky. Continued part time as research assistant to Dr Lisa Ruble. Aide in assessment of children with autism, recruit participants, score assessments, schedule evaluations. Administered the Social Communication Questionnaire to parents. Administered the ADOS module 1.

Unpublished manuscript: Wheatley, M. K., & Wille, D. E. (2007). *A longitudinal evaluation of the Parenting Stress Index and the Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents.*

Summer 2007

Research assistant to Lisa Ruble, PhD. University of Louisville School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Weisskopf Child Evaluation Center. Perform administrative duties, recruit research subjects, and assist in the assessment of children with Autism.

Expanded senior thesis study on parent/child relationships in families with children with autism and wrote manuscript for submission.

Fall 2006

Unpublished manuscript: Wheatley, M.K., Wille, D.E. & Weddle, S.N. (2006) *A Longitudinal Evaluation of Parental Stress: The Influence of Child Care and Employment*, February 2007.

Senior thesis project and paper presentation on parental attachment formation to children with autism.

Summer 2006

Summer Internship/Fellowship at University Of Louisville Developmental Neuropsychology lab under Dr Dennis Molfese

- Weekly Seminars on Brain Theory

- Performed research experiments with children involving event-related potentials during various auditory tasks and visual tasks
- EEG net application
- Operated the computer during the testing of subjects using auditory and visual tasks
- Netstation software
- E Prime Software
- Weekly seminars on behavioral assessments
- Data Entry
- Event-related potential segmentation, filtering, averaging, and data analysis procedures
- Principal Components Analysis
- SPSS data analysis
- Poster Submission and first author of “The Difference that an Hour’s Sleep Makes on Attentional Auditory Event-Related Potentials in Children” for the Society for Research in Child Development Conference for 2007
- HIPPA Training
- CITI Training for Social and Behavioral Subjects
- CITI Training for Biomedical Courses

Summer Work Group Fellowship on Longitudinal Study with Dr Diane Wille. Cleaned up database after data entry and analyzed data for my manuscript submission A *Longitudinal Evaluation of Parental Stress: the Influence of Child Care and Employment*

Spring 2006

Intern at St Elizabeth’s Regional Maternity Center gained first-hand experience working with women facing extenuating circumstances. Worked as case-manager, and therapist aid during group sessions.

Research Fellowship from Indiana University Southeast to continue research on Parental Stress

Fall 2005

Research Fellowship from Indiana University Southeast to continue research on Parental Stress

Summer 2005

Research Assistant, Longitudinal Family Study
Supervisor: Dr. Diane Wille

Duties:

- Interviewed 14 year old research participants during home visits
- Administered the Kaufman's Brief Intelligence Test (KBIT)
- Administered the Family Environment Scale Assessment
- Administered the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment
- Administered the Adult Attachment Scale
- Scored the KBIT
- Entered all research data into SPSS program
- Ran analysis on research data

Winter 2004

Volunteer service at The Ronald McDonald House aiding families under stress who are away from home and who have children in the hospital. Duties include greeting families, answering phones, preparing meals, household cleaning, and offering an ear when families need to talk.

Publications

Ruble, L., & Wheatley, M. (2009). In Anderman, Eric (ed.). *Psychology of Classroom Learning: An Encyclopedia*, Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA.

Presentations

Wheatley, M. K., Ruble, L. A., Cartwright, A., Dalrymple, N., McGrew, J. (2008). *Quality and Content of IEPs for Children with Autism*. Poster presented at the National Association for School Psychologists annual conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Wheatley, M.K. (April, 2007). *Maternal Emotional Investment in Child Who Can't Reciprocate: Autism and Attachment*. Paper presented at the IU Southeast Undergraduate Research Conference, New Albany, IN.

Wheatley, M.K., Snowdy, C., Ferguson, M., Molfese, V., & Molfese, D. (March, 2007). *The Difference that an Hour's Sleep Makes on Attentional Auditory Event-Related Potentials in Children*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development International Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

Wheatley, M.K., Wille, D.E., & Weddle, S.N. (2006, August). Poster presentation *A Longitudinal Study of Parental Stress and Child Attachment* American Psychological Association's Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Wheatley, M.K., Wille, D.E., & Weddle, S.N. (2006, May). Poster presentation *A Longitudinal Study Evaluating Parental Stress of Mothers and Fathers as Children Mature from 8-14 years of Age*, Midwestern Psychological Association's Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

Wheatley, M.K., Wille, D.E., & Weddle, S.N. (2006, April). *Parental Stress: Comparisons, Longitudinal Changes and Relationship to Parental Willingness to Act As A Secure Base to the Child and Child Security*. Oral Presentation tying together all of my research projects into one presentation presented at the Indiana University Southeast Student Conference.

Wheatley, M.K., Wille, D.E., & Weddle, S.N. (2006, April). *Changes in the Experience of Parental Stress as Children Mature from 8 to 14 Years of Age*. Poster Presentation at the Conference on Human Development in Louisville, Kentucky.

Manuscripts Under Review

Ruble, L. A., Dalrymple, N. A., Wheatley, M. K., & McGrew, J. (2008). Pass or Fail: Do Individual Education Plans of Student with Autism Measure Up? Under review for *Exceptional Children*, July 2008.

Wheatley, M. K., Wille, D.E. (2008). *Maternal Attachment Responses to a Child with Autism*. Manuscript in review for *The Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, September 2008.

Wheatley, M.K., and Wille, D.E. (2008). *A Longitudinal Evaluation of the Parental Stress Index and the Stress Index for Parents of Adolescents*. Manuscript in review for *The Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research*, May 2008.

Academic Honors and Awards

Recipient, Outstanding Student of the Year (Overall) 2007, Indiana University Southeast

Recipient, Outstanding Student of Psychology 2007, Indiana University Southeast

Nominated Outstanding Student of the Year (Overall) 2006

Recipient, Chancellor's Scholar Award Scholarship, 2006-2007

Recipient, Psi Iota Zeta Scholarship, 1989

Research Fellowships

Recipient, Commitment to Excellence Mini Grant to extend Autism study for submission for publication 2007 from Indiana University Southeast

Recipient, Commitment to Excellence Mini Grant for Autism study 2007 from Indiana University Southeast

Recipient, Summer Intern Fellowship, University of Louisville, 2006

Recipient, Summer Workgroup Fellowship, Indiana University Southeast 2006

Recipient, Indiana University Southeast Spring Research Fellowship, 2006

Recipient, Indiana University Southeast Fall Research Fellowship, 2005

Academic Affiliations

Member, Student Association for School Psychologists 2007-

Member, Pinnacle National Honor Society 2006-207

Member, Psi Chi (The National Honor Society in Psychology), Spring 2005-

Chapter President, 2006-2007

Chapter Vice-President, 2005-2006

Student Representative, Indiana University Southeast Orientation Coordinating Committee 2006

Student Representative, Indiana University Southeast Internship Advisory Board 2006-2007

Student leader/Speaker Introductions at 13 new student orientations 2005-2007

Professional Affiliations

Bluegrass Society for Neuroscience, Student member 2008-

National Association for School Psychologists, Student member 2007-

Association for Psychological Science (APS) Student Caucus Campus Representative 2007

Student-Affiliate, American Psychological Association (APA), 2005-2007

Student Member, American Psychological Association For Graduate Students (APAGS), 2005-

Student Affiliate, Association for Psychological Science (APS), 2006-2007

Student Member, Kentucky Psychological Association (KPA), 2006-

References

Dr Lisa Ruble, Associate Professor, Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, University of Kentucky. Email: lisa.ruble@gmail.com Phone: (502)303-6960.

Dr. Diane Wille, Professor, Developmental Psychologist, Department of Psychology, Indiana University Southeast

Email: dwille@ius.edu Phone: (812)941-2300.

Dr. Dennis L Molfese, Birth Defects Center, Distinguished Scholar, University of Louisville,

Email: dlmolfese@mac.com Phone: (502)852-2512