

Early Education Commission

A community leadership collaborative supporting the United Way's goal of ensuring children are ready for school



Background on the Speaker

November 13, 2008 Meeting



**Lisa Freund, Ph.D., Associate Chief for Neurobehavioral Research
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The critical importance of early childhood experiences on brain development and function has been underscored by major advances in cognitive neuroscience during the past few years, as well as advances in understanding the importance of genetic factors and gene-environment interactions. Dr.

Freund and staff at the Child Development and Behavior Branch of the NICHD develop scientific initiatives and support research and research training relevant to the psychological, psychobiological, language, behavioral, and educational development of children.

Recently, Dr. Freund, with John Colombo and Peggy McCardle, co-edited the book “Infant Pathways to Language: Methods, Models, and Research Directions,” published in October 2008. The book encourages thinking across disciplines to integrate creativity and science as the field of infant language research continues to grow. The authors discuss different paradigms and approaches used to study infant language and cognition that are on the cutting edge of research in behavioral and brain sciences. Dr. Freund and her co-authors review a mix of theories and disclose the research results that support, refute or modify them. The linking of theory and methodology helps readers from all disciplines to find common ground in understanding infant pathways to language.

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Freund is a developmental psychologist and cognitive neuroscientist who is known for her neuroimaging studies with children from different clinical populations and she was an NICHD-supported scientist for several years. She has extensive training and experience in the fields of developmental neuroscience, developmental psychology, learning disorders, and behavioral and molecular genetics. Dr. Freund received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in Applied Developmental Psychology and was previously an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Kennedy Krieger Institute. As part of the Child Development and Behavior Branch of the NICHD, Dr. Freund is the Associate Chief for Neurobehavioral Research. She is responsible for a multifaceted research and training program to promote investigations, both basic and applied, to gain a deeper understanding of the linkages between genes, developing brain, and behavior.