

Geetha B. Ramani

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EDUCATION

2005 Ph.D., Developmental Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
2002 M.S., Developmental Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
1998 B.A., Psychology, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2008 - Present Assistant Professor of Human Development, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
2005 - 2007 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cognitive Development Lab, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

HONORS AND AWARDS

2004 - 2005 University of Pittsburgh Provost Development Fund Predoctoral Fellowship
2003 - 2004 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship
1998 Cum Laude, Bryn Mawr College
1998 Psychology Major Honors, Bryn Mawr College
1997 Howard Hughes Fellowship, Bryn Mawr College

GRANTS

2009 - 2011 U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, R305A080013, "Improving Children's Numerical Understanding". Co-Investigator (with Dr. Robert Siegler)

PUBLICATIONS (Maiden name: Balaraman)

Ramani, G.B., Brownell, C.A., & Campbell, S.A. (In press). Positive and negative peer interaction in 3- and 4-year-olds in relation to regulation and dysregulation. *Journal of Genetic Psychology*.

- Brownell, C.A., Nichols, S., Svetlova, M., Zerwas, S. & Ramani, G.B. (In press). The head bone's connected to the neck bone: When do toddlers represent their own body topography? *Child Development*.
- Siegler, R.S. & Ramani, G.B. (2009). Playing linear number board games – but not circular ones – improves low-income preschoolers' numerical understanding. *Journal of Educational Psychology, 101*, 545-560.
- Ramani, G.B. & Siegler, R.S. (2008). Promoting broad and stable improvements in low-income children's numerical knowledge through playing number board games. *Child Development, 79*(2), 375-394.
- Siegler, R.S. & Ramani, G.B. (2008). Playing board games promotes low-income children's numerical development. *Developmental Science, 11*(5), 655-661.
- Brownell, C.A., Zerwas, S., & Ramani, G.B. (2007). "So big": The development of body self-awareness in toddlers. *Child Development, 78*(5), 1426-1440.
- Brownell, C. A., Ramani, G. B., & Zerwas, S. (2006). Becoming a social partner with peers: Cooperation and social understanding in one- and two-year-olds. *Child Development, 77*(4), 803-821.
- Siegler, R. S. & Ramani, G. (2006). Early development of estimation skills. *APS Observer, 19*(5), 34.
- Zerwas, S., Balaraman, G., & Brownell, C.A. (2004). Constructing an understanding of mind with peers. (Invited commentary). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 27*(1), 130.
- Cassidy, K., Werner, R., Rourke, M., Zubernis, L., & Balaraman, G. (2003). The relationship between psychological understanding and positive social behavior. *Social Development, 12*(2), 198-221.
- Brownell, C.A., Zerwas, S., & Balaraman, G. (2002). Peers, cooperative play, and the development of empathy in children. (Invited commentary). *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 25*(1), 28-29.
- Volpicelli, J.R., Balaraman, G., Hahn, J., Wallace, H., & Bux, D. (1999). The role of uncontrollable trauma in the development of PTSD and alcohol addiction. *Alcohol Research and Health, 23*(4), 256-262.

Manuscripts submitted for publication

- Ramani, G.B. & Siegler, R.S. (Submitted). It's more than just a game: Playing board games can reduce the gap in numerical knowledge between preschoolers from low- and middle-income families. *Developmental Psychology*.

Manuscripts in preparation for publication

- Ramani, G.B., & Brownell, C.A. (In preparation). Preschooler's cooperative problem solving: Effects of task and context on efficacy.
- Ramani, G.B., Whalen, D., & Brownell. (In preparation). Social understanding and cooperative problem solving in preschool children.

INVITED TALKS

Center for Children, Relationship and Culture, Department of Human Development, University of Maryland

Developmental Psychology Seminar, Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Fairfax Futures' Fourth Annual School Readiness Symposium, Fairfax, VA

Professional Development Day for Early Childhood Professionals, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

PRESENTATIONS

Symposia Presentations

- Siegler, R.S., & Ramani, G.B. (2009, May). Improving low-income children's mathematical understanding. In C. O'Donnell & E. Albo (Chairs), *Developing Preschool through Middle School Students' Understandings of Fundamental Concepts in Mathematics*. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.
- Ramani, G.R., & Siegler, R.S. (2009, April). Improving low- and middle-income preschool children's numerical knowledge and arithmetic learning by playing a linear board game. In J. Horst (Chair), *Global perspectives on how SES influences children's math performance across tasks*. Symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Denver, CO.
- Siegler, R.S., & Ramani, G.B. (2009, April). Applying cognitive analyses to improving the numerical understanding of preschoolers from low-income backgrounds In E. Albro (Chair), *Can findings from Developmental Science transform instruction and improve education outcomes?* Symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Denver, CO.
- Siegler, R.S., & Ramani, G.B. (2009, February). Playing linear number board games improves children's mathematical knowledge. In C. O'Donnell (Chair), *IES-funded studies that produce trustworthy evidence of the effects of curriculum and curriculum policy interventions on mathematics achievement in PreK-16 settings*. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the *Society for Research in Educational Effectiveness*, Arlington, VA.
- Ramani, G.B & Siegler, R.S. (2007, March). Improving the numerical estimation of Head Start children. In S. Levine (Chair), *Mathematics and spatial development: The role of input*. Symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Boston, MA.
- Brownell, C.A., Zerwas, S., Ramani, G.B., Nichols, S.R., & Svetlova, M.L. (2007, March). Objective representations of one's own body: Early developments in awareness of the size and topography of one's body. In C.A. Brownell & V.P. Slaughter (Chairs), *Early developments in body representation: Action, knowledge, self-awareness*. Symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Boston, MA.

Balaraman, G., Zerwas, S. & Brownell, C.A. (2005, April). Joint play and problem solving in young toddlers. In S. Zerwas (Chair) Cooperative Play and Problem Solving in Young Children. Student symposium conducted at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Atlanta, GA.

Poster Presentations

- Ramani, G.B., & Siegler, R.S. (2009, June). Playing a linear board game promotes low- and middle-income preschool children. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Institute of Education Sciences*, Washington, D.C.
- Ramani, G.B., & Siegler, R.S. (2009, May). Improving low-income preschoolers' numerical knowledge and arithmetic learning by playing a linear board game. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.
- Ramani, G.B. & Siegler, R.S. (2008, June). Learning to learn arithmetic by playing a linear board game. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Institute of Education Sciences*, Washington, D.C.
- Ramani, G.B. (2007, March). Cooperative play and problem solving in preschool children. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Boston, MA.
- Brownell, C.A., Svetlova, M.L. Nichols, S.R., Zerwas, S., Ramani, G.B., & Rinberg, Y. (2007, March). "The head bone's connected to the neck bone": Toddlers' knowledge of their own body topography. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Boston, MA.
- Brownell, C.A, Nichols, S., Svetlova, M., Zerwas, S., & Ramani, G.B. (2006, July). Where's your nose?: Toddlers' knowledge of their own body topography. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *International Conference on Infant Studies*, Kyoto, Japan.
- Brownell, C. A., Svetlova, M., Nichols, S., Zerwas, S., & Ramani, G.B. (2006, July). Self-understanding and body self-awareness in toddlers. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *International Conference on Infant Studies*, Kyoto, Japan.
- Ramani, G.B. & Siegler, R.S. (2006, June). Improving numerical estimation of Head Start children. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Institute of Education Sciences*, Washington, D.C.
- Balaraman, G. & Siegler, R.S. (2005, April). It's more than just a game: Effects of children's board game play on the development of numerical estimation. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Atlanta, GA.
- Nichols, S., Brownell, C.A., Balaraman, G.R., & Zerwas, S. (April, 2005). Does mental state language relate to cooperative play and cooperative problem-solving in toddler peers. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Atlanta, GA.
- Balaraman, G.R., Brownell, C.A., Zerwas, S., & Kimmel, A. (2004, May). Relations between temperament and early peer interaction in toddlers' joint play and cooperative problem solving. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *International Conference on Infant Studies*, Chicago, IL.
- Brownell, C.A., Balaraman, G., Zerwas, S., Adalja, A., & Sancaktar, M. (2004, May). Through the looking glass: Toddlers' scale errors with self and dolls. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *International Conference on Infant Studies*, Chicago, IL.

- Brownell, C.A., Balaraman, G.R., Zerwas, S., & Adalja, A. (2004, May). Toddlers in wonderland: Self errors and self-understanding. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *International Conference on Infant Studies*, Chicago, IL.
- Zerwas, S., Brownell, C.A., Balaraman, G.R., & Adalja, A. (2004, May). My size or the doll's size? Doll play and scale errors in toddlers. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *International Conference on Infant Studies*, Chicago, IL.
- Balaraman, G.R. (2003, April). Children's self-regulation and peer interaction at 36 and 54 months: Concurrent and longitudinal relations. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Tampa, FL.
- Brownell, C.A., Balaraman, G.R., Zerwas, S., Mariaskin, A., & Kimmel, A. (2003, April). Peer social skill and social understanding in toddlers: Joint play, joint attention, and cooperative problem-solving. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Tampa, FL.
- Balaraman, G.R., & Brownell, C.A. (2002, April). Self-regulation and peer social competence in young preschool children. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *International Conference on Infant Studies*, Toronto, Canada.
- Brownell, C.A., Balaraman, G., Mariaskin, A., Perseo, K., & Zerwas, S. (2002, April). Joint play and cooperative problem-solving in toddlers: Relations between social skills and social understanding. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *International Conference on Infant Studies*, Toronto, Canada.
- Cassidy, K., & Balaraman, G. (1997, April). Theory of mind ability in language delayed children. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Washington, D.C.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate

Developmental Psychology, University of Pittsburgh
Child Growth and Development, University of Maryland

Graduate

Cognitive Development and Learning: An Introduction, University of Maryland

REVIEW FOR PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS

Child Development
Contemporary Educational Psychology
Developmental Psychology
European Journal of Psychology of Education
Infancy
Infant and Child Development
Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology
Journal of Educational Psychology
Psychological Science
Social Development

