

Kaya LeGrand M.S., CCC-SLP

Developmental Psychology
University of Connecticut

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EDUCATION

- SP 2027 **Anticipated: PhD, Developmental Psychology**
University of Connecticut
Advisor: Letitia Naigles
Committee: Diane Lillo-Martin, Umay Suanda, Courtney Venker (*Michigan State University*)
- 2023 **MS, Developmental Psychology**
University of Connecticut
Thesis: Longitudinal Analysis of Early Verb Production in Typical Development and Autism Spectrum Disorder
Advisor: Letitia Naigles
Committee: Julia Parish-Morris, William Snyder, Umay Suanda
- 2020 **MS, Communication Sciences and Disorders**
Emerson College
Thesis: Identifying Age 5 Expressive Language Features that Best Predict Adult Language and Communication Outcome in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Advisor: Rhiannon Luyster
Committee: Ruth Grossman, Lisa Wisman Weil
- 2017 **BS, Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education (online)**
Utah State University
- 2015 **BA, Linguistics and Cognitive Science, *cum laude***
Pomona College
Thesis, with Distinction: A Preliminary Reconstruction of Obstruents in Proto-Luyia Verbs
Advisor: Michael Diercks

AWARDS

- 2026 UConn Department of Psychological Sciences
Carolina A. Herfkens & J. Conrad Schwarz Fellowship (\$6,000)
- 2026 UConn Graduate School
Summer Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$2,000)
- 2022-23 National Science Foundation (NSF)
Science of Learning & Art of Communication (SLAC) Fellowship
Covered tuition, stipend, and conference travel for one academic year
- 2020 Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD)
Plural Publishing Research Scholarship Award (\$5,000)
Scholarship presented annually to one master's level student pursuing CSD research
- 2018-20 Emerson College
Graduate Fellowship
Merit-based fellowship that covered 75% of graduate tuition

PUBLICATIONS

- IN PREP **LeGrand, K.** & Naigles, L. Production of verbs within subcategories is similar in autism and typical development.
- 2025 **LeGrand, K.**, Parish-Morris, J., & Naigles, L. Longitudinal analyses of early verb production in autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41128967/>
- 2021 **LeGrand, K. J.**, Wisman Weil L., Lord, C., & Luyster, R. J. Identifying childhood expressive language features that best predict adult language and communication outcome in individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 64(6): 1977:1991. https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2021_JSLHR-20-00544

PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Wing, E., **LeGrand, K.**, & Diercks, M. Progressive aspect is acquired before perfect aspect. Poster to be presented at the 51st *Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)*, Boston, MA.
- 2026 **LeGrand, K.** & Naigles, L. Investigating meaning composition in low-verbal autistic individuals who script. Poster. *Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA)*, Atlanta, GA.
- 2026 **LeGrand, K.** & Naigles, L. Motor skills and production of nouns and verbs in TD and ASD. Poster. *Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA)*, Atlanta, GA.
- 2026 **LeGrand, K.** & Naigles, L. Investigating semantic compositionality in minimally verbal autistic individuals. Poster. *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention*, Washington, DC.
- 2025 **LeGrand, K.** & Naigles, L. Parent underestimations of verb vocabulary in ASD and TD. Talk. *International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting*, Seattle, WA.
- 2025 **LeGrand, K.** Gestalt language acquisition? Invited talk. *Connecticut Autism and Language Lab*, UConn.
- 2025 **LeGrand, K.** Gestalt language acquisition? Evaluating evidence in neurotypical development and in autism. Invited talk. *Emerson College LI+TLE Lab "Up and Coming" Speaker Series*, Emerson College.
- 2024 **LeGrand, K. J.**, Parish-Morris, J., & Naigles, L. Latent profiles of verb development in autism and typical development. Poster. *16th Congress of the International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL)*, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2024 Wolfer, P., Baumeister, F., Rudelli, N., Dimitrova, N., **LeGrand, K. J.**, Corrigan, G., Naigles, L. R., & Durrleman, S. Gesture replacing verbal information: Do autistic children recognize them? Poster. *International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting*, Melbourne, Australia.
- 2024 Wolfer, P., Baumeister, F., Rudelli, N., **LeGrand, K. J.**, Corrigan, G., Naigles, L. R., & Durrleman, S. Metalinguistic awareness in school-aged autistic children: Insights from a grammatical judgment task. Poster. *International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting*, Melbourne, Australia.
- 2024 **LeGrand, K. J.**, Parish-Morris, J., & Naigles, L. Longitudinal analysis of verb production in autism spectrum disorder. Talk. *Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA)*, Durham, North Carolina.
- 2024 Wolfer, P., Baumeister, F., Rudelli, N., Dimitrova, N., **LeGrand, K. J.**, Corrigan, G., Naigles, L. R., & Durrleman, S. Co-speech gesture comprehension in school-aged autistic children. Poster. *Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA)*, Durham, North Carolina.

- 2024 Wolfer, P., Baumeister, F., Rudelli, N., **LeGrand, K. J.**, Corrigan, G., Naigles, L. R., & Durlleman, S. Grammatical judgment in school-aged autistic children: A window into metalinguistic awareness.
Poster. *Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA)*, Durham, North Carolina.
- 2023 **LeGrand, K. J.** & Naigles, L. Early use of manner and result verbs in autism and typical development.
Poster. *International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting*, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2023 **LeGrand, K. J.** & Naigles, L. Can expressive language features indicate whether low-verbal children with ASD will progress linguistically?
Poster. *Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting*, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2023 **LeGrand, K. J.**, Parish-Morris, J., & Naigles, L. Early verb production in autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
Poster. *Inaugural Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA)*, Durham, North Carolina.
- 2022 **LeGrand, K. J.**, Parish-Morris, J., & Naigles, L. Early verb production in autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
Poster. *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2022 **LeGrand, K. J.**, Parish-Morris, J., & Naigles, L. Investigating the relationship between early joint attention and later usage of verb subcategories in children with autism spectrum disorder.
Poster. *International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting*, Austin, Texas.
- 2020 **LeGrand, K. J.**, Wisman Weil, L., & Luyster, R. J. What really matters? Characterizing “the presence of useful speech” in 5-year-olds with ASD.
Poster. *International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting*, Seattle, Washington. [virtual conference]
- 2020 **LeGrand, K. J.**, Wisman Weil, L., & Luyster, R. J. What really matters? Characterizing “the presence of useful speech” in 5-year-olds with ASD.
Poster. *Poster accepted to the Meeting on Language in Autism (MoLA)*, Durham, North Carolina. [conference cancelled]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- SP 2025 Laboratory in Developmental Psychology - *University of Connecticut*
Teaching assistant
- SP 2025 Psychology of Language - *University of Connecticut*
Guest Lecturer: “Language in Autism”
- FA 2024 Principles of Research in Psychology Lab - *University of Connecticut*
Instructor
- FA 2023 Developmental Psychology - *University of Connecticut*
Teaching Assistant
Guest Lecturer: “Language Development”
- FA 2023 Psychology of Language - *University of Connecticut*
Guest Lecturer: “Speech Perception”
- SP 2023 Language Acquisition - *Pomona College*
Guest Lecturer: “Approaches to Studying Language Acquisition”
- SP 2022 Principles of Research in Psychology Lab - *University of Connecticut*
Instructor
- FA 2021 General Psychology Lab - *University of Connecticut*
Instructor
- FA 2021 Developmental Psychology - *University of Connecticut*
Teaching Assistant

- FA 2021 Seminar in Cognitive Science - *University of Connecticut*
Guest Lecturer: "Applying to Graduate School"
- 2019-20 Neurological Bases of Communication - *Emerson College*
Course Tutor
- SP 2015 Syntax - *Pomona College*
Teaching Assistant
- SP 2015 Principles of Human Interaction - *Pomona College*
Teaching Assistant
- FA 2014 Introduction to Linguistics - *Pomona College*
Teaching Assistant

PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020-21 Boston Higashi School - *Randolph, MA*
Speech-Language Pathologist
Clients: autistic students (18-22 years)
- 2020-21 The Evergreen Center - *Milford, MA*
Speech-Language Pathologist
Clients: autistic students (14-22 years)

GRADUATE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- SP 2020 Lemuel Shattuck Hospital - *Boston, MA*
Graduate Student Clinician
Clients: acute and subacute care patients with speech, language, and swallowing disorders
- SP 2020 Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital - *Boston, MA*
Graduate Student Clinician
Clients: outpatient adults with neurogenic communication disorders
- SP 2020 Emerson College Robbins Speech, Language, & Hearing Center - *Boston, MA*
Graduate Student Clinician
Clients: adult with nonfluent aphasia; adult seeking transgender voice therapy
- FA 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School - *Cambridge, MA*
Graduate Student Clinician
Clients: elementary school students with language, articulation, and social communication disorders
- SU 2019 RISE Brookline Early Education Program - *Brookline, MA*
Graduate Student Clinician
Clients: autistic preschoolers
- SU 2019 Camp Kaleidoscope - *Starksboro, VT*
Graduate Student Clinician
Client: autistic student (family summer camp for autistic children)
- SP 2019 Boston Children's Hospital Center for Communication Enhancement - *Waltham, VT*
Graduate Student Clinician
Clients: outpatient augmentative/alternative communication (AAC) evaluations for individuals with complex communication needs and autistic individuals
- FA 2018 Emerson College Robbins Speech, Language, & Hearing Center - *Boston, MA*
Clients: preschooler with speech and language delays; graduate students seeking accent modification services

SERVICE & OUTREACH

- 2021-25 Mentor: Mentoring Aspiring Graduate Students and Building an Inclusive Community (MAGIC)
Mentor for underrepresented and first-generation students at UConn who are considering graduate school.
- 2023-25 Planning Committee Member: UConn Language Festival
Speaker Coordination Subcommittee member and festival co-host.
- 2024 Guest Presenter: UConn Linguistics Department Acquisition Lab Meeting
"Introduction to R"; "R and Linear Mixed Effects Models"
- 2023 Guest Presenter: Pomona College Linguistics Department
"Pursuing A Career in Speech-Language Pathology"
- 2022-23 Committee Member: Science of Learning & Art of Communication (SLAC) Events Committee
Coordinated community-building events for SLAC fellows.
- SP 2022 Search Committee Member: UConn Child Language Lab research assistant position
- 2022 Panelist: Connecticut Science Center Virtual STEM Career Showcase
Talked with high school students about what a career in scientific research looks like.
- 2021-22 Committee Member: Science of Learning & Art of Communication (SLAC) Outreach Committee
Coordinated outreach efforts for SLAC fellows.
- SP 2021 Search Committee Member: Boston Higashi School speech-language pathologist position
- 2016-17 Volunteer: Seven Bridges Therapy Social Learning Groups (Oakland, CA)
- SU 2016 Volunteer: Listen to Me! Summer Institute for children with cochlear implants (Stanford, CA)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

- 2021-PRES American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence
- 2025-PRES Utah Speech-Language Pathology License
- 2020-25 Massachusetts Speech-Language Pathology License

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- 2021-PRES Member, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- 2020-PRES Member, International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)
- 2023-PRES Member, Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

SKILLS

- Proficient in R, basic SPSS, SALT, CHAT/CLAN, PsychoPy, peyeCoder
- AAC assessment, programming, and implementation
 - Familiar with iPad applications (e.g., GoTalk Now, TouchChat, Proloquo2Go, Snap+Core), hardware (e.g., Tobii Dynavox, NovaChat), voice output devices (e.g., LITTLE Step-by-Step), low-tech communication systems (e.g., E-tran board, communication books), core vocabulary instruction, Aided Language Input
- Conversational proficiency in Spanish; elementary proficiency in Nepali