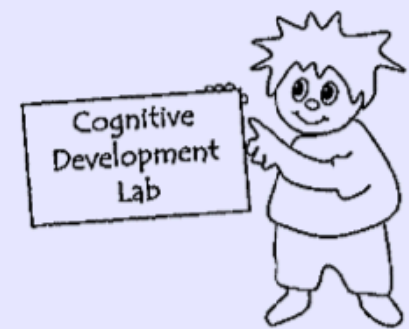


University of Waterloo CDL's



Featured Research



Have you ever wondered
whether a partner's behaviour
can affect preschoolers' *later*
behaviour?

Swipe for more details



The Study

A recent study in our lab investigated whether partnering with a collaborative or uncollaborative (virtual) partner changed preschoolers' turn-taking behaviour after the interaction.



What we did

We created a game where children aged 4-6 took turns with a virtual partner to complete a task. In between two rounds of this game, they played a game with a different partner who either gave them lots of turns or gave them no turns.



What we found

After children played the game with a partner who gave them turns, they were more likely to give their next partner more turns. Interestingly, girls and children with better language skills showed the most sensitivity to their partner's behaviour.



Implications

This work suggests that children's turn-taking carries over from prior experiences, but that the degree to which this is the case depends on their own characteristics. This work is also relevant for settings where it may be useful to strategically partner children.



THANK YOU FOR READING!



**More information about research in the CDL can
be found on our website (link in bio)**

Reference:

Valcke, A. V., & Nilsen, E. S., (2026). Past partner behaviour affects children's turn-taking with a new partner, but this depends on child characteristics. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 104, 101944.