

BABY'S FIRST YEARS NEWS

ISSUE 6, MARCH 2023

Shortly after giving birth, you started participating in the Baby's First Years study. You have been joined by 1,000 other mothers and families in four U.S. cities: New Orleans, LA; New York City, NY; Omaha, NE; and the Twin Cities, MN.

On behalf of the entire Baby's First Years' research team, thank you so much for letting us be a part of the amazing journey of your child growing up! By talking to us each year, you are helping us understand how families like yours make ends meet and support children. We value your partnership in doing this work!

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER, YOU'LL FIND

- Update on what we're learning
- Update on Age-6 plans
- Introduction to some local research staff

UPDATE ON WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

It's been incredible to meet so many of you and your children at the universities! For some of you, the last time we got to be together in person was when your child was just a year old, for others this will be the first time since you gave birth. Now, many of them are starting school or getting ready to start in the fall. We really appreciate your kids (and you!) doing science with us!

We hear from you about how you're helping your kids to prepare for the transition to school, whether that's them becoming more independent or working toward milestones like singing the ABCs and writing their own name! We've heard stories of how your child is thinking more about other people—getting a bottle for a new baby in the family or giving you a hug when you're sad. This is an exciting time of so much growing and learning for kids!

We've also heard from you about your own experiences with work and with BFY. Across all the moms in BFY, about half were working around the time your kids were three, some part-time and others full-time, while some are home full-time with the kids. You've also told us about what it's like getting money every month from BFY, that it's pretty easy—it usually shows up when it's supposed, there's no paperwork to fill out, and you've continued to receive it even when there are changes in your family or finances or you move. And we hope that whenever you do have questions about BFY, you reach out to us by phone (608-291-7359) or email (4mybabycard@gmail.com).

Our team is ready to help!

6TH BIRTHDAY VISITS!

It's been so exciting to see so many of you and your growing children at our local university office! It's been so great, in fact, that we want to invite you to come back when your child is six years old!

This visit around your child's sixth birthday will be like the one you did (or will soon be invited to do) around their fourth birthday. We'll play some games, share some snacks, ask you some questions, and listen to your child's brain using the EEG cap. We'll be in touch closer to your child's sixth birthday to invite you back and make any needed transportation and childcare plans.

Between now and then, we'll be in touch every so often just to say hi and make sure we still have up-to-date contact information from you. If you move or change your phone number, you can also let us know by calling us at 608-291-7359 or emailing 4mybabycard@gmail.com.

MEET YOUR LOCAL BFY TEAM

Our four local BFY teams have been enjoying meeting you and your kids when you visit us for the university visits!



Asia Young

New Orleans, LA

Asia is a Research Assistant at the University of New Orleans. She was born and raised in Harvey, Louisiana also known as the westbank (the best bank!). In May of 2022, Asia graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with her Master's degree in Psychology. Besides enjoying meeting the wonderful families within BFY NOLA she loves to dance and paint.



Alexis Shuck

Twin Cities, MN

Alexis is a Research Assistant at the University of Minnesota. Alexis is a military brat, and she grew up in many different places, including Alaska, Louisiana, Germany, and South Korea. She graduated from Carleton College with a degree in Political Science and Russian. In her free time, Alexis loves to read, play piano, and play with her two cats, Billy and Bobby.



Karla Ponce-Merida

Omaha, NE

Karla is a bilingual Research Assistant at the University of Nebraska. In May 2022, she graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha with two bachelor's degrees in industrial/organizational psychology and Latino/Latin American studies. Karla enjoys traveling and spending time with her friends and family. Being born and raised in Omaha, Karla loves visiting new restaurants in the area.



Angie Narvaez

New York, NY

Angie is a Research Assistant at Teachers College, Columbia University. She graduated from Skidmore College in May 2022 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Education. She was born and raised in Washington Heights and is happy to be working with all of the families in the community. In her free time, she loves to go on long walks and try new restaurants with friends.



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