It has been another busy year in the Tackett Lab! We continue to make progress on our major studies, thanks to the help of so many families in the community. Our graduate and undergraduate students have been traveling the US to present our research findings at major conferences – most recently, the Association for Research in Personality conference, which was held in St. Louis. As my own children get older, we have various opportunities to participate in research projects with them. They enjoy being “little scientists” and I always appreciate being a research participant instead of a researcher (have we said recently, THANK YOU for all the questionnaires you fill out for us!). Perhaps the biggest news for the lab is that we recently relocated to Northwestern University, in Illinois. A portion of the lab has stayed behind in Houston, so our projects continue to run there, and we will be traveling back and forth to facilitate cross-lab communication. For now, the lab has two locations, so don’t be alarmed if you start getting mail from Illinois! We are currently bracing ourselves for the very un-Texas winter ahead. Thanks again from all of us for all your contributions to our research. We couldn’t do it without you!

Best wishes,
We have finally finished collecting data for this project with a total of 350 families!!! The Childhood Personality and Behavioral Study (CPBS) is interested at looking at individual differences in personality traits in middle childhood and how they are related to behavior. Our participants completed many different things like interview questions, interactive games, and providing saliva samples. We are working hard on analyzing this data, and we are excited to be able to share our results with you soon! We couldn’t have done it without all of our amazing families, so thank you so much for your participation!!!
The Texas Twin Project

A collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin, the Twin Project is an on-going study of child and teenage twins in Austin and Houston. We think twins are fascinating! The purpose of this study is to better understand how children and adolescents grow up to be healthy adults. We are specifically interested in what aspects of schools, neighborhoods, and families might promote children’s learning and academic achievement and might protect against mental health problems. We are interested in building a Texas-wide twin registry so that we have a database of interested families for many future studies involving twins!!!

Fun Facts about Twins

1. Identical twins do not have identical fingerprints.

2. Massachusetts has the most twin births of any state in America.

3. Mirror image identical twins have reverse asymmetric features.

4. Identical twins do not always have the same genetics.

5. Mothers of twins may live longer.

6. It’s possible that twins can have different dads.

Risky Business

This study is also in collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin, and is the first study of many to involve those families recruited into our twin registry as part of the Texas Twin Project. The purpose of this study is to further our understanding of how teenagers make decisions about doing things that might be risky, dangerous, or harmful – like whether or not to try alcohol or whether to drive a car very fast. We are especially interested in how genes may influence their decision-making. Twins allow us to study whether many different things are influenced by genes versus the environment (i.e., “nature” vs. “nurture”). Email us at twinproject@uh.edu if you or someone you know might be interested in participating!
PDAO
The Personality Development and Academic Outcomes Study

The Personality Development and Academic Outcomes Study (PDAO) is a research study investigating how different aspects of children’s lives are related to success in school. The study will help further our understanding of personality and its relationship to academic success. Parents and children are asked to complete surveys that ask about the child’s personality, motivation, and other interests and behaviors. Combined with information about the child’s educational achievement, this will help to shed light on the factors that promote learning and academic success. Email us at pdaostudy@uh.edu if you or someone you know might be interested!

Project FAD

Project F.A.D. (Friends and Adolescent Decision-making) is interested in looking at individual differences in personality traits in adolescence and how these traits and adolescents’ peer groups relate to motivations for risky behaviors, and the influence friends have on those behaviors. We are collecting online questionnaires from teens and their friends about things like personality, relationships and behavior, and using a social networking study design to help us understand how peer groups work.

Email us at projectfad@uh.edu if you or someone you know might be interested!

Some recent findings in PERSONALITY:

1. **Current research suggests that there are five core personality traits**
   - Extraversion
   - Agreeableness
   - Conscientiousness
   - Neuroticism
   - Openness

2. **Openness to Experience describes your tendency to be imaginative and have wide interests.** On average, people who live in denser and more diverse zip codes are more open to experiences.

3. **In college students,** studying and attending class were related to conscientiousness and neuroticism. Engaging in social activities and exercise were related to extraversion and agreeableness.

4. **Personality can impact health outcomes:** After getting discharged from an emergency room, people high on both conscientiousness and extraversion were much more likely to follow up with their doctor than people without both of these traits.

“Fun Facts about Personality” summarized from findings at this year’s Association for Research in Personality (ARP) conference in St. Louis.