The Neurocognition, Early Experience, and Development (NEED) Lab, directed by Dr. Kimberly Noble, investigates how early life adversity influences children's brain and cognitive development. Our two NIH-funded research studies focus on how early experiences influence development across the first three years of life. The first study, the [**Building Understanding of Developmental Differences across Years (BUDDY) Study**](https://needlabcolumbia.wixsite.com/needlab/research)**,** follows 200 local NYC infants through their third birthday to understand how brain function, language, and memory develop during this important period of early childhood. Exploring similar themes at scale, the [**Baby’s First Years (BFY) Study**](https://www.babysfirstyears.com/) is a national randomized control trial investigating the causal impact of poverty reduction (via a monthly cash gift) on brain development among 1,000 young children. Together, these projects will help us identify both risk and protective factors that affect children’s socioemotional, language and memory development to inform scientific and policy interventions.

The NEED lab is perfect for students looking to gain hands-on child development research experience. Research assistants are responsible for recruiting and scheduling participants, conducting research sessions, and helping process and code a range of data (from behavioral interactions to EEG). We are always looking to mentor motivated, curious and dedicated students who can commit 10+ hours a week for at least two terms (summer/fall/spring). Students who are bilingual in English and Spanish are particularly encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in joining the lab, please complete a brief survey and upload your resume [**here**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpPGPf0Zg7X-hmusKgcrhuWUfhl3yr_3oXYl-YEr4UtDvx0w/viewform). If you have any questions, please contact Pooja Desai at pmd2137@tc.columbia.edu.