

**DIANA LEYVA**

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**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

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- 2019-present Associate Professor of Psychology  
Department of Psychology  
Research Scientist  
Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC)  
University of Pittsburgh
- 2013-2019 Nancy Akers and J. Mason Wallace Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology, Davidson College  
*Courses:* Child Development, Research Methods in Child Development,  
Seminar in Literacy, Educational Psychology and General Psychology
- 2010-2013 Project Director of *Un Buen Comienzo* (A Good Start): A cluster-randomized evaluation  
of a preschool teacher professional development program in Chile  
Harvard University, Graduate School of Education and Harvard Center on the  
Developing Child
- 2008-2010 Post-doctoral Fellow and Lecturer in Education  
Harvard University, Graduate School of Education  
*Courses:* Parenting and Literacy, and Quality of Early Childhood Education  
*Projects in collaboration with other institutions:* The MetroBaby Project (with New York  
University), and The Tulsa Children's Project (with Oklahoma University)
- 2007-2008 Visiting Assistant Professor  
Mount Holyoke College, Department of Psychology and Education  
*Courses:* Children's Cognitive Development, Developmental Psychology, Educational  
Psychology, and Lab in Emergent Literacy
- 2007 Visiting Lecturer  
Williams College, Department of Psychology  
*Course:* Processes of Teaching and Learning (spring semester)
- 2000-2003 Lecturer  
Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia, Department of Psychology  
*Courses:* Cognitive Development, Research Methods, Learning and Teaching

## EDUCATION

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- 2007 Ph.D., Psychology (Developmental). Clark University, Worcester, MA
- 2005 M. A., Psychology. Clark University, Worcester, MA
- 2003 M. A., Psychology. Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia
- 2000 B. A., Psychology. Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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I study authentic familial practices that support preschool children's early language, literacy and math development in ethnically diverse communities and use that information to design, implement, and evaluate intervention programs for families in these communities. My research has identified two rarely studied familial practices that promote school readiness and are meaningful and culturally relevant for families from diverse ethnic backgrounds: food routines (e.g., grocery shopping, cooking, mealtimes) and oral narratives (e.g., reminiscing).

## PUBLICATIONS (\* indicates student co-author)

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### Referred Articles

1. Kim, J., Armstrong, C., Mesite, L., Burkhauser, M., & Leyva, D. (in press). Using a sequential multiple assignment randomized trial (SMART) to develop an adaptive K-2 literacy intervention with personalized print texts and app-based digital activities. AERA Open.
2. Wei\*, R., Ronfard, S., Leyva, D., & Rowe, M. (2019). [Teaching a novel word: Parenting styles and toddlers' word learning](#). Journal of Experimental Child Psychology. On-line first. doi: 10.1016/j.jecp.2019.05.006
3. Leyva, D., Tamis-LeMonda, C., & Yoshikawa, H. (2019). [What parents bring to the table: Maternal behaviors in a grocery game and first graders' literacy and math skills in a low-income sample](#). The Elementary School Journal, 119, 629-650. doi: 10.1086/703104
4. Leyva, D. (2019). [How do low-income Chilean parents support their preschoolers' writing and math skills in a grocery game?](#) Early Education and Development, 30, 114-130. doi: 10.1080/10409289.2018.1540250.
5. Nieto\*, A., Leyva, D., & Yoshikawa, H. (2018). [Sharing is reading: Guatemalan Mayan book-sharing styles and their relation to parents' schooling and children's narrative contribution](#). Early Childhood Research Quarterly. doi: 101016/j.ecrq.2018.08.006.
6. Leyva, D., Davis\*, A., & Skorb\*, L. (2018). [Math intervention for Latino parents and kindergarteners based on food routines](#). Journal of Child and Family Studies, 27, 2541-2551. doi: 10.1007/210826-018-1085-5.

7. [Leyva, D., & Skorb\\*, L. \(2017\). Food For Thought: Family food routines and literacy in Latino kindergarteners. Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, 52, 80-90. doi: 10.1016/j.appdev.2017.07.001.](#)
8. [Leyva, D., Tamis-LeMonda, C., Yoshikawa, H., Jimenez-Robbins, C., & Malachowski\\*, L. \(2017\). Grocery games: How ethnically diverse low-income mothers support children's mathematics and literacy. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 40, 63-76. doi: 10.1016/j.ecresq.2017.01.001.](#)
9. [Leyva, D., & Smith\\*, M. \(2016\). Beyond book reading: Narrative participation styles in family reminiscing predict children's print-related literacy in low-income Chilean families. Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 37, 175-185. doi: 10.1016/j.ecresq.2016.04.005.](#)
10. [Leyva, D., & Nolivos, V. \(2015\). Spanish-speaking family reminiscing about emotions and its relation to children's self-regulation skills. Early Education and Development, 26, 770-791. doi: 10.1080/10409289.2015.1037625.](#)
11. [Leyva, D., Weiland, C., Barata, C., Yoshikawa, H., Snow, C., Trevino, E., & Rolla, A. \(2015\). Teacher-child interactions in Chile and their associations with prekindergarten outcomes. Child Development, 86, 781-799. doi: 10.1111/cdev.12342.](#)
12. [Yoshikawa, H., Leyva, D., Snow, C., Trevino, E., Rolla, A., Barata, C., Weiland, C. & Arbour, C. \(2015\). Experimental impacts of a teacher professional development program in Chile on preschool classroom quality and child outcomes. Developmental Psychology, 51, 309-322. doi: 10.1037/a0038785.](#)
13. [Leyva, D., Berrocal\\*, M., & Nolivos\\*, V. \(2014\). Spanish-speaking parent-child emotional narratives and children's social problem-solving skills. Journal of Cognition and Development, 15, 22-42. doi:10.1080/15248372.2012.725188.](#)
14. [Nolivos\\*, V., & Leyva, D. \(2013\). Fun and Frustrations: Low-income Chilean parents reminiscing with their children about past emotional experiences. Actualidades en Psicología, 27, 31-48. doi: 10.15517/ap.v27i115.9278.](#)
15. [Leyva, D., Sparks, A., & Reese, E. \(2012\). The link between preschoolers' phonological awareness and mothers' book reading and reminiscing practices in low-income families. Journal of Literacy Research, 44, 426-447. doi: 10.1177/1086296X12460040.](#)
16. [Leyva, D., Hopson\\*, S., & Nichols\\*, A. \(2012\). Reading a note, reading a mind: Early understanding of print and theory-of-mind. Reading and Writing, 25, 701-716. doi: 10.1007/s11145-011-9296-9.](#)
17. [Leyva, D., Reese, E., & Wiser, M. \(2012\). Early understanding of the functions of print: Parent-child interaction and preschoolers' notating skills. First Language, 32, 301-321. doi: 10.1177/0142723711410793.](#)
18. [Moreno, L., others, Leyva, D., & others. \(2011\). Aftershocks of Chile's earthquake for an ongoing, large-scale experimental evaluation. Evaluation Review, 35, 103-117. doi: 10.1177/0193841X11400685.](#)

19. Reese, E., Leyva, D., Sparks, A. & Grolnick, W. (2010). [Maternal elaborative reminiscing increases low-income children's narrative skills relative to dialogic reading](#). *Early Education and Development*, 21, 318-342. doi: 10.1080/10409289.2010.481552.
20. Reese, E., Sparks, A., & Leyva, D. (2010). [A review of parent interventions for preschool children's language and emergent literacy](#). *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy*, 10, 97-117. doi: 10.1177.1468798409356987. Reprinted in: K. Pahl & J. Rowsell. (Eds.) (in press). *Early Childhood Literacy*. London: Sage Publications.
21. Leyva, D., Reese, E., Grolnick, W., & Price, C. (2009). [Elaborative structure and autonomy support in low-income mothers reminiscing: Links to children's autobiographical narratives](#). *Journal of Cognition and Development*, 9, 363-389. doi: 10.1080/15248370802678158.

### **Book Chapters**

**Leyva, D.**, & Skorb\*, L. (2019). Food For Thought: Turning everyday family practices into opportunities to develop rich language and literacy abilities in Latino children. In Grover, V., Uccelli, P., Rowe, M., & Lieven, E. (Eds.), *Learning through language: Towards an educationally informed theory of language learning*. Cambridge University Press.

**Leyva, D.** (2018). Desigualdad y complejidad en el desarrollo cognitivo: Comentario al capítulo II. [Unevenness and complexity in cognitive development: Commentary on Chapter II]. In Puche-Navarro, R., Cerchiaro, E., de la Rosa, A., Montes, J., & Ossa, J. *El desarrollo cognitivo se reorganiza* [Cognitive development reorganizes itself]. California Edit Publishers.

### **Manuscripts under review**

**Leyva, D.**, Reese, E., Laible, D., Schaughency, E., Das, S., & Clifford, A. (Revise & Resubmit). The art of elaboration: Differential links of parents' elaboration to child autobiographical memory and socioemotional skills.

**Leyva, D.**, von Suchodoletz, A., Doering, E., Shroff, D., Hinojo, A., & Kartner, J. (Revise & Resubmit). Let's read or let's talk: Maternal book-sharing styles and toddlers' verbal contributions in three contexts.

**Leyva, D.**, Jeong, J., Yoshikawa, H., & Tamis-LeMonda, C. (submitted). Maternal control, child self-regulation and weight status in low-income and ethnically diverse families

### **GRANTS AWARDED**

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2018-2021      *Title of Project:* [Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Food For Thought program. A three-year randomized control trial evaluation of a family literacy program with Latino families in NC](#). *Awarding Agency:* Brady Education Foundation. *Name of PI:* Diana Leyva. *Co-PI:* Christina Weiland. *Grant dates:* 5/1/2018-4/30/2021. *Amount awarded:* \$315,768.

- 2015-2016 *Title of Project:* [Food For Thought: Children learning from menus, recipes and shopping lists. A one-year feasibility study of a family intervention project with Latino families in NC.](#) *Awarding Agency:* Brady Education Foundation. *Name of PI:* Diana Leyva. *Grant dates:* 9/1/2015-8/31/2016. *Amount awarded:* \$58,938.
- 2002 *Title of Project:* Understanding of mind in the classrooms: An exploratory study with teachers and preschoolers. *Awarding Agency:* Colombian Institute for the Development of Science and Technology (COLCIENCIAS, equivalent to the NSF in the U.S.). Young Researchers Division. Contract # 036-200. *Name of PI:* Diana Leyva. *Grant dates:* 1/1/2002- 12/31/2002. *Amount awarded:* \$4,000.

### INVITED ADDRESSES AND TALKS

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- 2019 Name of talk: *Tools and Skills Session: The Food For Thought program.* LEGO Idea Conference. Billund, Denmark. April 1-3, 2019.
- 2018 Name of talk: *Food For Thought: How parents support children's literacy and math skills during family food routines.* University of Iceland, Reikjavik. Research Centre for Language and Literacy Development. August 16, 2018.
- 2018 Name of the talk: *Grocery games: How parents support children's school readiness skills during family food routines.* University of Otago at Dunedin, NZ. Psychology Department. February 12, 2018.
- 2017 Invited speaker at the III International Conference Good Start, an academic event on early education and development organized by the Office of the Major of Medellin (Colombia). Name of talk: *How parents play a central role in the development of children* [Como los padres de familia juegan un papel central en el desarrollo de los niños y niñas]. September 18-20, 2017. Medellin, Colombia.
- 2017 Name of the talk: *What families bring to the table: Supporting children's school readiness skills during family food routines.* Harvard University – Graduate School of Education. October 12, 2017.
- 2016 Name of the talk: *Fostering literacy and language skills through everyday food practices in Latino communities.* University of Michigan – School of Education. October, 27-29, 2016.
- 2015 [Keynote speaker at the XIV Seminario Realidad Social en Niñez y Adolescencia](#) [Conference on Social Issues in Childhood and Adolescence] organized by the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica [National University of Costa Rica], September 29-October 1, 2015. Heredia, Costa Rica.

### HONORS, AWARDS AND PRESS COVERAGE

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- 2019 [Research featured in FoxNews43](#)
- 2019 [Interviewed by Child News Trends Service.](#) English and Spanish version of the videos and a 10-min interview
- 2018 Invited to [blog for the National Institute for Early Education Research](#) (NIEER).
- 2018 Research featured in [local newspaper in Dunedin, New Zealand.](#)
- 2017 Interviewed by a [local public television program](#) about parenting practices in Colombia.
- 2016 Invited to [blog for UNICEF.](#)

- 2015 [Award for the top three most downloaded articles](#) published in Routledge Behavioral Sciences journals in 2014. Featured in an online article collection available at:  
*Article: Spanish-speaking parent-child emotional narratives and children's social problem-solving skills*
- 2015 American Psychology Association ([APA](#)) [MOU Travel Award](#). Selected among over 40 applications to attend and present at the 1<sup>st</sup> Latin American Regional Psychological Conference (Armenia, Colombia, Sept 2-5). This APA travel award is intended to foster international research collaboration among U.S. and Latin American researchers.
- 2013 Nancy Akers and J. Mason Wallace Professorship. Inaugural recipient. This [endowed professorship](#) was created to attract exceptionally talented pre-tenured professors to Davidson College.
- 2013 Interviewed by Dr. Elizabeth Baker - [Podcast "The Voice of Literacy"](#)  
Aired on February 4, 2013. Listen to the podcast:
- 2011 Award for the most downloaded article on SAGE- Journal of Early Childhood Literacy. Of articles published during 2009 and 2010  
*Article: Review of parent interventions for preschool children's language and emergent literacy*
- 2010 Semi-finalist: National Academy of Education/Spencer Post-doctoral Fellow Application
- 2009 Harvard Special Opportunity Research Award. Graduate School of Education
- 2006 Language Learning Dissertation Award. Language Learning Research Club, University of Michigan
- 2005 The Monte M. Bliss Award for Graduate Research. Clark University

#### **UNDERGRADUATE THESES MENTORED**

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- 2016-2017 Gillian Hight: *Culture and its impact on the development of both memory and language skills in New Zealand children*. Davidson College.
- 2015-2016 Lauren Skorb (Honors): *Food For Thought Feasibility Study: Expanding a literacy program for Latino kindergarteners and their parents*. Recipient of an **Abernethy grant** and the **Workman Award** granted by the Psychology Department for outstanding research and service. Davidson College.
- Lauren Malachowski (Honors): *Helping kids self-regulate: Exploring relations among ethnicity, maternal behaviors, and executive function in the early elementary years*. Recipient of the **Sigma Xi Award** granted by the Psychology Department for outstanding research involvement. Davidson College.
- Anna Davis: *Food, focus and functions: Could learning about food influence children's math and self-regulation abilities?* Davidson College.
- 2014-2015 Julia Lindsey: *Executive function, parental scaffolding and autonomy support in low-income Latino and African American children*. Recipient of a **Sigma Xi Award** granted by the Psychology Department for outstanding research involvement. Davidson College.

## POLICY BRIEFS

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**Leyva, D.** (2017). [\*Family conversations and self-regulation are key to school success in preschool\*](#) [Las conversaciones familiares y la autorregulación son piezas claves para el éxito escolar en la etapa inicial en la educación parvularia].

**Leyva, D.** (2017). [\*Beyond books: Developing emergent literacy skills in children through family conversations\*](#) [Mas alla de los libros: Como desarrollar las habilidades de lectura emergente en los niños a través de la conversación familiar].

**Leyva, D.** (2017). [\*The importance of fostering social competences in children during early childhood\*](#) [La importancia de fomentar las competencias sociales en los niños durante los primeros años de vida].

**Leyva, D.** (2014). [\*Improving classroom practices in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in Santiago de Chile\*](#) [Mejora en la calidad de las prácticas en niveles de transición de establecimientos municipales en Santiago de Chile].

## EDITORIAL AND AD-HOC REVIEWER SERVICE

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2018-present Editorial Review Board, Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology  
 2018-present Editorial Review Board, Early Education and Development  
 2012-present Editorial Review Board, Journal of Cognition and Development  
 2010-present Editorial Review Board, Revista Colombiana de Psicología  
 2009-present Ad-hoc Reviewer for Developmental Science, Child Development, Developmental Psychology, Early Childhood Research Quarterly, Educational Review, Journal of Early Childhood Literacy, First Language, British Journal of Developmental Psychology, Journal of Literacy Research, Infant and Child Development, Journal of Educational Research, Journal of Child and Family Studies, Infancia y Aprendizaje

## DOCTORAL AND MASTER THESES COMMITTEE MEMBER

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2018-2019 University of Otago at Dunedin (NZ). Department of Psychology.  
**Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member.**  
 Name of Ph.D. student: Shika Das  
*Title of Dissertation:* Rich reading and reminiscing: Benefits of parent-preschooler interactions for children's developing language, behavioural regulation, and socio-emotional competencies.

2017-2018 University of Delaware. Department of Human Development and Family Studies.  
**Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member.**  
 Name of Ph.D. student: Juana Gaviria.  
*Title of Dissertation:* Maternal depression and child-directed speech: Influences on toddler's communication abilities and socioemotional competence

2016-2017 Harvard University. Graduate School of Education.  
**Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member.**  
 Name of Ph.D. student: Ana Maria Nieto.  
*Title of Dissertation:* Parents' beliefs and commitments towards formal education and participation in book-sharing interactions amongst rural Mayan parents of first grade students.

2014-2015 Universidad de los Andes, Colombia. Psychology Department.  
**Master Thesis Committee Member.**  
 Name of student: Andrea Solano.  
*Name of thesis:* La calidad de la educación inicial en Bogotá: Relación entre la formación docente y las interacciones en el aula.

### CONSULTANT

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2016 Colombian Ministry of Education  
 Provided feedback on the creation of a National Curriculum for Kindergarten – in collaboration with Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia.

2013-2014 Office of the Colombian President  
[\*Evaluation of the mechanisms of implementation, governance, finance and sustainability of the early childhood education national policy De Cero a Siempre\*](#) – in collaboration with New York University, Yale University, Harvard University, Stanford University and UNICEF. Report available at:

### CREATIVE WORK

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2018 Collaborated with Award Winning Animation Director Simon Wilches in [\*Coloring Without Borders\*](#), a children's coloring book. This collaborative book was created to benefit the work by the Families Belong Together organization, to permanently end family separation and detention, particularly at the US-Mexico border. Four pages in the book were authored by me. The content of these pages was informed by research on child development in Latino communities.

### SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS SINCE 2013 (\* indicates student co-author)

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**Leyva, D.** (June, 2019). *How do low-income Chilean parents support preschoolers' math in a grocery game?* Paper presented at the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society (MCLS) Annual Meeting. Ottawa, Canada.

**Leyva, D.,** von Suchodoletz, A., Doering, E., Shroff, D., Hinojo, A., Kartner, J. (April, 2019). *Mother-toddler book-sharing practices in the United States, Germany and India.* Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

**Leyva, D.,** Davis\*, A., & Skorb\*, L. (April, 2019). *Recipe for success: Capitalizing on family food routines to develop Latinx children's math skills.* Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

**Leyva, D.,** Rolla, A., Trevino, E., Arbour, M.C., Marzolo, M., & Barata, M. C. (August, 2018). *Improving ECED quality in Chile: Impact results of a teacher professional development program.* Paper presented at the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) Annual Meeting. Tampere, Finland.

**Leyva, D.** (April, 2017). *What families bring to the table: Using food practices to foster children's language and literacy skills.* Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)



Biennial Meeting. Austin, TX.

**Leyva, D.**, & Nolivos\*, V. (April, 2017). *Chilean family reminiscing about emotions and its relation to children's self-regulation skills*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Austin, TX.

**Leyva, D.**, & Smith\*, M. (June, 2016). *Parents' narrative scaffolding and children's language and literacy in a low-income Chilean sample*. Paper presented at the Jean Piaget Society (JPS) Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

**Leyva, D.** (April, 2016). *The Food For Thought (FFT) program: A feasibility study*. Paper presented at the Professional Learning Network to Advance Early Education Reform (ProLEER) Annual Meeting. Boston, MA.

Skorb\*, L., & **Leyva, D.** (March, 2016). *Food For Thought Feasibility Study: A literacy program for Latino kindergarteners and their parents*. Poster presented at the Easter Psychological Association (EPA) Annual Meeting. New York, NY.

Rolla, A., **Leyva, D.**, & Trevino, E. (March, 2016). *Using the CLASS observation instrument as an evaluation and professional development tool in Chile*. Paper presented at the Comparative International Education Society (CIES) Annual Meeting. Vancouver, Canada.

Malachowski\*, L., **Leyva, D.**, Tamis-LeMonda, C., & Yoshikawa, H. (October, 2015). *Stability and Changes in Maternal Autonomy Support From Kindergarten to First Grade: Predicting Executive Function Skills in a Low-Income and Ethnically Diverse Sample*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Annual Meeting. Columbus, OH.

**Leyva, D.**, Yoshikawa, H., Snow, C., Trevino, E., Rolla, A., Barata, M. C., Weiland, C., & Arbour, M. C. (September, 2015). *¿Cómo mejorar la educación pre-escolar en Chile? Resultados de un estudio experimental realizado con maestras en Santiago*. Paper presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Latin American Regional Psychological Conference. Armenia, Colombia.

**Leyva, D.**, Tamis-LeMonda, C., Yoshikawa, H., & Jimenez-Robbins, C. (July, 2015). *Ethnic differences in mother-child interaction and their relation to gains in children's literacy and mathematics*. Poster presented at the Society for Scientific Studies in Research (SSSR) Biennial Meeting. Kona, HI.

Lindsey\*, J., **Leyva, D.**, Jimenez-Robbins, C., Tamis-LeMonda, C., & Yoshikawa, H. (March, 2015). *Executive function, academic skills, and parental scaffolding and autonomy support in low-income Chinese, Latino and African American kindergarteners*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

**Leyva, D.** (March, 2015). *Does narrative scaffolding predict pre-kindergarteners' literacy skills in a sample of low-income Chilean families?* Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

**Leyva, D.** & Nolivos\*, V. (March, 2015). *The effects of executive function and parent "math talk" on children's mathematics skills in low-income Chilean families*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.

**Leyva, D.** (July, 2014). *Parent-child discourse and children's school readiness in minority children*. Symposium to be presented at the International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL) Biennial Meeting. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

**Leyva, D.,** Yoshikawa, Y., Snow, C., Trevino, E., Rolla, A., Barata, C., Weiland, C., & Arbour, M. C. (April, 2014). *Can we improve preschool classroom quality in Chile? A cluster-randomized trial evaluation of a professional development program*. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.

**Leyva, D.,** & Nolivos\*, V. (October, 2013). *Parental talk about number and its relation to Latino preschoolers' numeracy*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society (CDS) Biennial Meeting. Memphis, TN.

**Leyva, D.,** Yoshikawa, Y., Snow, C., Trevino, E., Rolla, A., Barata, C., Weiland, C., & Arbour, M. C. (April, 2013). *Two-year impact of a teacher professional development program on classroom quality in Chile*. Paper presented at the American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.

**Leyva, D.,** Nolivos\*, V., Tasuji\*, T., & Simoes\*, M. (March, 2013). *Spanish-speaking family reminiscing about emotional narratives and its relation to children's school readiness skills*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting. Seattle, WA.