Welcome to all our new Neuronauts members! Below we would like to share with you some current projects that our researchers are working on.

**Current Research on Specific Language Impairment**

Language groups at the CCD are investigating language development in children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI).

Children with SLI experience difficulties acquiring language despite having no physical abnormalities of the speech apparatus, no hearing difficulties and no underlying intellectual difficulties. Children with SLI are generally late talkers and may not produce many words in the first few years. They have difficulty being understood and making conversation. Such children often require support throughout school and their language difficulties can persist into adulthood.

Recent research has found that the pieces of words, or words that express tense, is one of the main areas of difficulty for children with SLI. For example, children with SLI will leave the ‘s’ of ‘walks’ in a sentence like “Johnny walks to school.” and they might omit the auxiliary verb ‘is’ as in “Susie drinking juice”. Typically developing children also make these omissions, but children with SLI continue to drop these endings and words for a much longer period of time. Researchers who study children with SLI are interested in when and how these children acquire these pieces of words.

Our research will allow us to better understand this group of children’s developing language and work towards improving services and providing the best support possible.

For more information, please contact Kelly Rombough on 0424 885 988 or at kelly.rombough@mq.edu.au

**Another Holiday Research Program these April Holidays**

For the past 3 years, Nic Badcock and his team have successfully coordinated research programs for kids during the school holidays. The programs are a lot of fun for the kids and help the researchers to discover new and interesting things about attention and reading development.

We are currently looking for **children in grades 2 through to 6, with English as their first language**, to take part in our research program to be held at Macquarie University during the April school holidays this year. Children will attend the program for 3 hours and will be led through a series of exciting games and puzzles!

The holiday program will run on the following dates, with both morning and afternoon sessions available:

- Tuesday 7th April
- Wednesday 8th April
- Thursday 9th April
- Thursday 16th April
- Friday 17th April

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact: **Yvette Kezilas**

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or register online at www.ccd.edu.au/neuronauts