



Mission and Values

The construction, communication, and use of mathematical ideas are among humans' greatest accomplishments. Researchers in the CLAD Lab study mathematical cognition using the methods and tools of cognitive science. We seek to answer theoretical questions about how the mind develops, while also grappling with practical educational problems that parents and teachers face when making decisions about how to teach math in formal and informal learning environments. In this way, we embody the mission of Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives to improve education for all children, particularly those who have historically been denied educational opportunities because of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic status. As a lab, we are committed to the equitable treatment of all and elimination of discrimination in all its forms. We value people over inanimate objects and believe that the measure of our success as a research lab is whether the work we do enhances the life and dignity of the human person. This philosophy is why we support and respect our fellow lab-mates. It's why we look for ways to help and celebrate one another. It's why we abide by the University's Standards of Conduct (<https://dulac.nd.edu/community-standards/standards/>). Our lab chooses to contribute to our community in positive ways. To uphold this value, we help reduce opportunity gaps via TutorND, attend community events like Zoo Boo and Science Alive; respond to requests to collaborate with and serve our community partners like Head Start, Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) at Notre Dame and St. Mary's, South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC), and ACE Teaching Fellows; and distribute a lab newsletter where we summarize relevant research findings in ways that are parent- and teacher-friendly. As a lab, we value scientific integrity and the use of science to advance the common good. We value improving public perceptions of and access to science. This is why we care more about the quality of our research than the number of products we produce. It's why we are careful, honest, and transparent in our scientific practice. It's why we pre-register our hypotheses and make our data accessible to others, so they can reproduce our results. Finally, we value student voices and contributions. This is why our mission and values statement will be reviewed, discussed, and voted on each semester.