

# Carla Abad

170 Ocean Lane Dr. #908 • Key Biscayne, FL 33149  
Phone: (305) 439-2267 • E-Mail: carla.abad001@gmail.com

## Education

---

**Florida International University** (Miami, FL)

Ph.D. in Developmental Science  
Anticipated graduation: August 2017

**Florida International University** (Miami, FL)

M.S. in Developmental Science  
Master's Thesis: Sex Differences in Hispanic Pre-Kindergartners' Spatial Thinking

December 2015

**New College of Florida, the State's Honors College** (Sarasota, FL)

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology  
Thesis: Parents' Preference for Gender Stereotypes in Children's Books

May 2011

**The Honors College at Miami Dade College** (Miami, FL)

Associate of Arts in Psychology  
Graduated with Highest Honors Distinction

May 2009

## Honors and Awards

---

**NSF Graduate Research Fellowships Program**

August 2014 – present

**GPSC Conference Funding** (\$500)

August 2016

**CAS Travel Support** (\$200)

August 2016

**PSY Seed Fund Award** (\$2,000)

May 2016

**Best Thesis in Psychology CASE Award**

April 2016

**GPSC Conference Funding** (\$309.70)

October 2015

**CDS 2015 Diversity Travel Award** (\$500)

October 2015

**GSAW 2<sup>nd</sup> place Social Science Oral Presentation Award** (\$200)

April 2015

**GPSC Conference Funding** (\$500)

November 2014

**CAS Travel Support** (\$200)

November 2014

**APS Travel Funding** (\$200)

May 2014

**GPSC Conference Funding** (\$500)

May 2014

**CAS Travel Support** (\$200)

May, 2014

**GPSC Conference Funding** (\$700)

July 2013

**CAS Travel Support** (\$200)

July 2013

**NSF Graduate Research Fellowships Program Honorable Mention**

April 2013

<b>GPSC Conference Funding</b> (\$278.58)	March 2013
<b>New College of Florida Academic Scholarship</b>	August 2009 – May 2011
<b>Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholars Award</b>	August 2007 – May 2011
<b>Highest Honor Distinction</b>	May 2009
<b>The Honors College Fellows Award</b>	August 2007 – May 2009
<b>Journalism Honors Award</b>	Spring 2009
<b>Dean's List</b>	Fall 2008 – Spring 2008

## Publications

---

- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., & Pruden, S. M. (2015). *Sex differences in gains among Hispanic pre-kindergartners' spatial thinking*. Manuscript submitted for publication.
- Abad, C.**, & Pruden, S.M. (2013). Do storybooks really break children's gender stereotypes? *Frontiers in Psychology*, 4.
- Costales, A., **Abad, C.**, Odean, R., & Pruden, S.M (2015). Spatial activities and manipulatives for early education classrooms. In G. Scarlett (Ed.), *Classroom Management: An A-to-Z Guide*. Thousand Oakes, CA: Sage Publications.

## Posters Presentations

---

**(Note: \* indicates research assistant under my supervision)**

- Abad, C.**, Alvarez, D., Gonzalez, A., Alayeto, A., & Pruden, S.M. (2017, April). Exploring the Relationship between Parent and Child Mental Rotation Skills. Submitted to the Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.
- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., & Pruden, S.M. (2016, August). Sex Differences in Spatial Skill Gains throughout Pre-Kindergarten. Presented at Spatial Cognition, Philadelphia, PA.
- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., & Pruden, S.M. (2015, October). *Exploring Sex Differences in Hispanic Pre-Kindergartners Spatial Skills*. Presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Study of Human Development, Austin, TX.
- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., Pruden, S.M. (2015, October). *Sex Differences in Gains on Spatial Ability Throughout Pre-Kindergarten*. Presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, OH.
- Alvarez, D.\*, **Abad, C.**, & Pruden, S.M. (2015, October). The Influence of Toy Preference on Early Mental Rotation Abilities. Poster presented at the FIU McNair Scholars Research Conference, Miami, FL.
- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., Salazar, D., Lopez, M., & Pruden, S.M. (2014, November). *Examining the gender gap: The role of spatial language on pre-kindergartners' numeracy and spatial skills*. Poster presented at the Science of Learning pre-conference at the 2014 International Mind, Brain, and Education Society, Forth Worth, TX.
- Odean, R., **Abad, C.**, Perez, L.\*, Perez, L.\*, & Pruden S.M. (2014, November). *Up, up and away: How teachers' spatial language influences children's early numeracy and spatial skills*. Poster presented at the 2014 International Mind, Brain, and Education Society, Forth Worth, TX.
- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., Lopez, M.\*, Salazar, D.\*, & Pruden, S.M. (2014, May). *The role of educators' language on pre-kindergartners' numeracy and spatial skills*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological

Science, San Francisco, CA.

- Salazar, D.\*, Lopez, M.\*, **Abad, C.**, Odean, R., & Pruden, S.M. (2014, April). *Examining the relation between pre-kindergartner's spatial and early numeracy skills*. Poster presented at the Life Sciences South Florida STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium, Miami, FL.
- Barriga, T.\*, Pulido, E.\*, Mateo, V.\*, Odean, R., **Abad, C.**, & Pruden, S.M. (2014, March). *Measuring kindergarten readiness: Are state assessments reflective of numeracy and spatial ability?* Poster presented at the Society for Research in Human Development, Austin, TX.
- Mateo, V.\*, Pulido, E.\*, Barriga, T.\*, Odean, R., **Abad, C.**, & Pruden, S.M. (2014, March). *Examining variability in pre-kindergarten teacher language use*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Human Development, Austin, TX.
- Mateo, V.\*, **Abad, C.**, Costales, A., Odean, R. & Pruden, S.M. (2013, November). *Exploring the relation between pre-k children's spatial language and spatial skills*. Poster presented at the Society for the Study of Human Development, Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- Odean, R., **Abad, C.**, Costales, A., Herradon, N.\*, Ferret, S.\*, & Pruden, S.M. (2013, October). *Pre-kindergartners' Numeracy and Spatial Development: The Influence of Educators Language*. Poster presented at 2013 Cognitive Development Society, Memphis, TN.
- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., Costales, A. Barriga, T.\*, & Pruden, S.M. (2013, June). *Same classroom, different experience: Sex differences in preschoolers' spatial reasoning*. Poster presented at 2013 Workshop on Infant Language Development, San Sebastián, Spain.
- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., Costales, A., Ferret, S. & Pruden, S.M. (2013, June). *Influence of teachers' numeracy language on pre-kindergartners' spatial reasoning*. Poster presented at 2013 Workshop on Infant Language Development, San Sebastián, Spain.
- Odean, R., **Abad, C.**, Bradley, C.A., & Pruden, S.M. (2013, June). *The words of our parents: How parental language use influences early language processing efficiency*. Poster presented at 2013 Workshop on Infant Language Development, San Sebastián, Spain.
- Abad, C.**, Odean, R., Costales, A., & Pruden, S.M. (2013, April). *Pre-kindergarten educators' spatial language use in the classroom: Using LENA to examine sources of sex differences*. Poster presented at 2013 LENA International Conference, Denver, CO.
- Odean, R., **Abad, C.**, & Pruden, S.M. (2013, April). *Individual differences in children's comprehension of spatial terms: Using LENA to examine influences of parent spatial language*. Poster presented at 2013 LENA International Conference, Denver, CO.
- Costales, A., **Abad, C.**, Odean, R., & Pruden, S.M. (2013, April). *Examining the impact of early educator language on pre-k children's spatial thinking using the LENA software*. Poster presented at 2013 LENA International Conference, Denver, CO.

## Research Experience

---

### Doctoral Student

August 2012 - Present

Project on Language and Spatial Development, Shannon Pruden PI  
Florida International University

### Research Assistant

September 2011 – May 2012

Mailman Center for Child Development  
Miller School of Medicine

## Teaching Experience

---

<b>Teaching Instructor, Children's Learning</b> (section U02)	Fall 2016
<b>Teaching Instructor, Children's Learning</b> (section U02)	Summer 2016
<b>Teaching Instructor, Children's Learning</b> (section U02)	Spring 2016
<b>Teaching Assistant, Developmental Psychology: Lecture &amp; Laboratory</b> (section U01B) Teaching the lab section of the course, lecturing, assisting with methods and statistics assignments, proctoring exams, grading written exams and papers, and holding office hours.	Summer 2014
<b>Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Psychology</b> (sections U02, RVC and RPC) Assist proctoring exams, holding office hours, and grading exams, discussion questions, and peer responses.	Spring 2014
<b>Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Psychology</b> (section U02) Assist proctoring exams, holding office hours, grading exams and exam corrections, and guest lecturing.	Fall 2013
<b>Teaching Assistant, Psychology of Infancy and Childhood</b> (online course) Assist grading writing assignments.	Summer 2013
<b>Teaching Assistant, Language Acquisition</b> Assist proctoring exams, holding office hours, grading exams and writing assignments, and guest lecturing.	Spring 2013
<b>Teaching Assistant, Psychology of Infancy and Childhood</b> Assist proctoring exams, holding office hours, grading exams and writing assignments, and guest lecturing.	Fall 2012
<b>Tutor</b> Work as an after-school tutor for elementary, middle, and high school students.	September 2006–August 2012

## Invited Presentations

---

- Abad, C.** (2014, November). *National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Presentation*. Talk presented at the Student Psychology Graduate Student Association Funding Workshop, Miami, FL.
- Abad, C.** (2014, September) *National Science Foundation Fellows Presentation*. Talk presented at the Board of Trustees Academic Policy and Student Affairs Committee Meeting, Miami, FL.

## Presentations

---

- Abad, C., Odean, R., Pruden, S.M.** (2016, April). *Pre-Kindergartners' Gain in Spatial Skills*. Talk presented at the Graduate Student Appreciation Week Scholarly Forum, Miami, FL.
- Abad, C., Odean, R., Barriga, T., Pruden, S.M.** (2015, May). *The Development of Spatial Skills in Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms*. Talk presented at the South Florida Child Psychology Research Conference, Miami, FL.
- Abad, C., Lopez, M., Perez, V., Odean, R., Pruden, S.M.** (2015, April). *The Role of Language in Early Spatial Development*. Talk presented at the Graduate Student Appreciation Week Scholarly Forum, Miami, FL.
- Pruden, S.M., **Abad, C.**, Odean, R., & Costales, A. (2014, May). *Pre-Kindergarten educator impact on children's early numeracy and spatial skills*. Talk presented in H.E. Miller, "Putting the pieces together: The role of

spatial language in spatial cognition" at the 44th annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, San Francisco, CA.

Pruden, S.M., \***Abad, C.**, & \*Odean, R. (\*co-authors contributed equally; names are alphabetical). (2014, March). *Impact of Early Educator Language Use on Pre-kindergarten Children's Numeracy and Spatial Skills*. Talk presented at the 2014 Barbara Gordon Memorial Lecture and Linguistics Festival, Miami, FL.

Pruden, S.M., \***Abad, C.**, \*Costales, A., & \*Odean, R. (\*co-authors contributed equally; names are alphabetical). (2013, February). *Impact of Early Educator Language Use on Pre-kindergarten Children's Numeracy and Spatial Skills*. Talk presented at Florida International University's 2013 Linguistics Mini-Fest, Miami, FL.

**Guest Lecture** Statistics and Methods Review for Developmental Psychology: Lecture & Laboratory. July 2014

**Guest Lecture** Developmental psychology for Introduction to Psychology course. October 2013

**Guest Lecture** Language in the school years for Language Acquisition course. April 2013

**Guest Lecture** for Psychology in Infancy and Childhood course. November 2012

## Trainings and Professional Development

---

**Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting Training** April 2013

**Teachstone CLASS observer** November 2011  
Present Trained and certified on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). Perform classroom observations at a variety of schools, assessing the teachers' performance based on emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support.

## Memberships

---

**Cognitive Development Society**

**International Mind, Brain, and Education Society**

**Association for Psychological Science**

**Society for the Study of Human Development**

## Community Outreach

---

**Frost Science Expo at the Miami-Dade County Fair** March 2016

**Brain Day at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science** March 2015

**Science Sunday at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science** October 2014

**Miami-Dade County Family Expo Fair** September 2014

**Miami-Dade County Family Expo Fair** August 2013

## Professional Activities

---

**Society for the Study of Human Development Emerging Scholars Committee member**      January 2015 -present

**Psychology Graduate Student Association board member**      August 2014 – August 2016  
Vice president of communications and secretary.

## Special Skills

---

- IBM SPSS Statistics, Statistical Analysis System (SAS), IBM SPSS Amos, CHAT transcription program, Computerized Language Analysis program (CLAN), Transcriber, LENA Pro software, Avisoft-SASLab, and SuperLab.
- Fluent in Spanish and English.