

[Student Poster Symposium rated 5.0]

### **The Development of Children's Verbal Deception.**

Recent decades have seen renewed interest in children's lying due to its implications for children's cognitive and social development. The proposed student poster symposium unites 5 new studies on children's lying, focusing on three developmentally relevant issues: How do children evaluate lying versus honesty? How does children's lie-telling behavior develop and how do various social and cognitive factors influence its development? How do we promote children's honesty? The first poster presentation examines child perceptions of lie acceptability and their moral evaluations under different circumstances where there is harm or benefit to the liar and the lie-recipient. Findings indicate that children are sensitive to truth versus lie distinctions, as they perceive self-serving lies as the least acceptable while they are more likely to reward truth-telling. The next three poster presentations examine the development of children's lying. The second paper examines very young children's ability to knowingly make false statements. The third and fourth presentations examine social and cognitive factors related to children's lie-telling. Findings suggest that children's lie-telling behavior is related to their cognitive development (i.e., understanding false statements, IQ) and social development (emotional knowledge, parenting styles, and family expressiveness). Finally, the last poster examines the impact of promising to tell the truth on honesty across development. Results suggest that promising might reduce lying among older children and adolescents. The discussant will discuss the implications of the current research in understanding the development of honesty in children.

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