Brianna Kaplan

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Positions

2023 – present	Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Texas at Austin Advisor: Chen Yu

Education

2018 – 2023	Ph.D., Psychology: Cognition and Perception, New York University M. Phil., Psychology: Cognition and Perception, New York University Advisors: Karen Adolph and Catherine Tamis-LeMonda
2012 – 2016	B.A., Psychology, Minor: Cognitive Science University of California, Los Angeles Advisor: Scott Johnson

Research Support

2025 – 2028	NICHD, F32 HD121434-01 *Infants use cross-situational statistics to learn action verbs in daily contexts* PI: Brianna Kaplan; Sponsors: Chen Yu and David Crandall Percentile, 1st submission: 3rd ($233,784 total costs)

Research Training

2016 – 2018	Research Staff, NYU, Advisor: Karen Adolph
2015 – 2016	Senior Honors Thesis, UCLA, Advisor: Scott Johnson
2014 – 2015	Clinical Research Intern, UCLA, Advisor: Bruce Baker
2014 – 2015	Clinical Research Intern, UCLA, Advisor: Jill Waterman
2014 – 2015	Research Assistant, UCLA, Advisor: Rena Repetti
2013 – 2016	Research Assistant, UCLA, Advisor: Scott Johnson

Honors and Awards

2022	Martin Braine Fellowship, NYU Department of Psychology
2020	Student Travel Award, International Congress on Infant Studies
2020	Dean's Student Travel Award, NYU Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
2018 – 2023	MacCracken Fellow, NYU
2015 – 2016	Departmental Honors, UCLA
2012 – 2016	Regent Scholarship, UCLA
2012 – 2016	Dean's Honors List, UCLA

Publications

*joint first authorship, †undergraduate trainee

1. **Kaplan, B. E.,** Monroy, C., & Yu, C. (under review). Seizing Learning Opportunities in Everyday Life: Infants are Attentive During Non-Child-Directed Activity.
2. **Kaplan, B. E.,** & Yu, C. (in revision). From Toy Play to Meal Preparation: Multimodal Pathways to Establishing Joint Attention in Naturalistic Contexts. *Child Development.*
3. Yu, C., **Kaplan, B. E.,** Schroer, S. & Hayhoe, M. (in revision) Examining Micro-Level Natural Behavior to Improve Generalizability in Behavioral Science. *Philosophical Transactions B*.
4. **Kaplan, B. E.,** & Yu, C. (2025). Near-Zipfian Distribution is Prevalent in Infant Input. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.* Vol. 47. 2025.

5. **Kaplan, B. E.,** & Yu, C. (2025). Using Head-Mounted Eye Tracking to Examine Infant Face Looking During Naturalistic Freeplay. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Vol. 47. 2025.
6. *Golmakani, S,. ***Kaplan, B. E.,** Adolph, K. E., & Ossmy, O. (2025). Children Plan Manual Actions Similarly in Structured Tasks and in Free Play. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 250,* 106124.
7. **Kaplan, B. E.** & Yu, C. (2024) Multimodal Pathways to Joint Attention in Naturalistic Contexts. In *2024 IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning (ICDL)* (1-6). *IEEE.*
8. Krishna, A., **Kaplan, B. E.,** Pope, J., Todorovic, S., Adolph, K. E. & Ossmy, O. (2024) A Computer-Vision Approach for Testing Developmental Changes in Object Manipulation. *In 2024 IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning (ICDL)* (1-6). *IEEE.*
9. **Kaplan, B. E.,** [†]Kasaba, I., Rachwani, J., Adolph, K. E. & Tamis-LeMonda, C. S. (2023). How Mothers Help Children Learn to Use Everyday Objects. *Developmental Psychobiology,* 65(8), e22435.
10. **Kaplan, B. E.,** Rachwani, J., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2022). The Process of Learning the Designed Actions of Toys. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology,* 221, 105442.
11. Ossmy, O., **Kaplan, B. E.,** Han, D., Xu, M., Mukamel, R., Adolph, K. E. (2022). Real-time Processes in the Development of Action Planning. *Current Biology,* 32(1), 190-199.
12. Schatz, J., Suarez-Rivera, C., **Kaplan, B. E.,** & Tamis-LeMonda, C. S. (2022). Infant Object Interactions are Longer and More Complex in the Context of Multimodal Joint Engagement. *Developmental Science,* 2594), e13239.
13. Rachwani, J., Hertzburg-Keller, O., **Kaplan, B. E.,** O'Grady, S., Comalli, D. M., & Adolph, K. E. (2022). Flexibility in Action: Development of Locomotion Under Overhead Barriers. *Developmental Psychology,* 58(5), 807.
14. West, K. L., Soska, K. C., Cole, W. G., Han, D., Hoch, J. E., Hospodar, C.M., & **Kaplan, B. E.** (2022). From Description to Generalization, or There and Back Again. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 45, e37.
15. Ossmy, O., Han, D., **Kaplan, B. E.,** Xu, M., Bianco, C., Mukamel, R., & Adolph, K. E. (2021). Children Do Not Distinguish Efficient from Inefficient Actions During Observation. *Scientific Reports,* 11(1), 18106.
16. Adolph, K. E., **Kaplan, B. E.,** & Kretch, K. S. (2021). Infants on the Edge: Beyond the Visual Cliff. In A. Slater & P. Quinn (Eds.), *Developmental psychology: Revisiting the classic studies, 2nd ed*. London: Sage Publications, pp 51-72.
17. Rachwani, J., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2020). Children's Use of Everyday Artifacts: Learning the Hidden Affordance of Zipping. *Developmental Psychobiology, 63(4), 793-799.*
18. Ossmy, O., Han, D., Cheng, M., **Kaplan, B. E.,** Tamis-LeMonda, C. S. & Adolph, K. E. (2020). Look Before you Fit: The Real-Time Planning Cascade in Children and Adults. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 189, 104696.*
19. Ogren, M., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Peng, Y., Johnson, K. L., & Johnson, S. P. (2019). Infant Emotion Discrimination from Biological Motion. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 57, 101324.

Shared Datasets

1. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Adolph, K. E., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Rachwani, J. (2019). Toy play: How children discover and implement the desgined action of Duplo bricks. *Databrary*. http://doi.org/10.17910/b7.988.
2. **Kaplan, B. E.,** Rachwani, J., Adolph, K. E. & Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., (2023). How Mothers Help Children Learn to Use Everyday Objects. *Databrary*.

Conference Symposia

1. **Kaplan, B. E.** & Yu, C. (2025, July). *Near-Zipfian Distribution is Prevalent in Infant Input*. Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, CA.
2. **Kaplan, B. E.** & Yu, C. (2024, July). *Generalizability and Flexibility of the Multiple Pathways to Joint Attention*. International Congress on Infant Studies, Glasgow, SCT.
3. **Kaplan, B. E.,** Monroy, X., & Yu, C. (2024, July). *Learning from Observation: Infant Attention to Parents' Actions During Everyday Activity*. International Congress on Infant Studies, Glasgow, SCT.
4. **Kaplan, B. E.** & Yu, C. (2024, May). *Multimodal Pathways to Joint Attention in Naturalistic Contexts*. International Conference on Development and Learning, Austin, TX.
5. **Kaplan, B. E.**, West, K., Hoch., J., & Adolph, K. E. (2022, July). *Head-Mounted Eye Tracking Reveals Structure in Children's Learning Environments.* International Congress on Infant Studies, Ottawa, CA.
6. **Kaplan, B. E.,** Rachwani, J., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2021, April). *Deceptively Simple: The Perceptual-Motor and Social Factors in Children's Learning of the Designed Actions of Objects.* Society for Research in Child Development. [Virtual].

Conference Posters

†undergraduate trainee

1. **Kaplan, B. E.**, †Martinez, E., & Yu, C. (2025, July). *Using Head-Mounted Eye Tracking to Examine Infant Face Looking During Naturalistic Freeplay*. Cognitive Science Society, San Francisco, CA.
2. Krishna, A., **Kaplan, B. E.,** Pope, J., Todorovic, S., Adolph, K. E. & Ossmy, O. (2024, May). *A Computer-Vision Approach for Testing Developmental Changes in Object Manipulation.* International Conference on Development and Learning, Austin, TX.
3. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2022, July). *The Perceptual-Motor and Social Factors in Children's Learning of the Designed Actions of Objects.* International Congress on Infant Studies, Ottawa, CA.
4. **Kaplan, B. E.**, †Parulekar, S,. Rachwani, J., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2022, July). *Role of Perceptual Feedback in Learning the Designed Actions of Everyday Objects.* International Congress on Infant Studies, Ottawa, CA.
5. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., †Kasaba, I., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2021, June). *How Mothers Teach their Children to Use Everyday Objects.* Development in Motion. [Virtual].
6. Ossmy, O., Han, D., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Xu, M., Bianco, C., & Adolph, K. E. (2021, May). *Looking without Seeing: Children do not distinguish efficient from inefficient means to achieve a goal.* Vision Sciences Society. [Virtual].
7. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., †Kasaba, I., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2021, April). *How Mothers Teach the Designed Actions of Everyday Objects.* Society for Research in Child Development. [Virtual].

8. Ossmy, O., Cheng, M., Bianco, C., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2020, July). *Developmental Process in Discovering and Implementing Solutions to Problems with Hidden Demands.* Society for Research in Child Development. [Virtual].

9. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., [†]Zhang, C., Shilling, M., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2020, July). *Scaffolding Motor Action: How Mothers Teach Infants the Designed Actions of Everyday Objects.* International Congress on Infant Studies, Glasgow, UK. (Conference cancelled).

10. Ossmy, O., Cheng, M., Bianco, C., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2020, July). *Developmental Progression in Discovering and Implementing Solutions to Problems with Hidden Demands*. International Congress on Infant Studies, Glasgow, UK. (Conference cancelled).

11. Ossmy, O., Han, D., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Xu, M., Bianco, C., & Adolph, K. E. (2020, May). *Looking without Noticing: Adults Distinguish the Means to Achieve a Goal, but Children Do Not*. Jean Piaget Society, Philadelphia, PA. (Conference cancelled).

12. Ossmy, O., Cheng, M., Bianco, C., **Kaplan, B. E.**, & Adolph, K. E. (2020, May). *The Developmental Process in Discovering and Implementing Solutions to Problems with Hidden Demands*. Jean Piaget Society, Philadelphia, PA. (Conference cancelled).

13. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2019, October). *Learning the Obvious: How Mothers Teach the Designed Actions of Everyday Objects*. Cognitive Development Society, Louisville, KY.

14. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., Han, D., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2019, March). *Children's Use of Everyday Artifacts: Cognitive and Perceptual-motor Requirements of Unzipping a Zipper.* Society for Research on Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

15. Ossmy, O., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Han, D., Xu, M., Bianco, C., Adolph, K. E. (2019, March). *What eye tracking and EEG tell us about the perception of multistep actions in children and adults.* Society for Research on Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

16. Ossmy, O., Han, D., Cheng, M., **Kaplan, B. E.,** Adolph, K. E. (2019, March). *Real-time problem solving in children and adults: The development of predictive planning in object fitting.* Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

17. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., Sida, A., Vasa, A., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2018, June). *Perceptual-Motor Exploration and Problem Solving: Learning to Implement the Designed Action of Duplo Bricks.* International Congress on Infant Studies, Philadelphia, PA.

18. Rachwani, J., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., Karasik, L. B., Lockman, J. J., & Adolph, K. E. (2018, June). *Learning the Designed Actions of Everyday Objects.* International Congress on Infant Studies, Philadelphia, PA.

19. Herzberg, O., Rachwani, J., **Kaplan, B. E.**, O'Grady, S. M., Comalli, D. M., & Adolph, K. E. (2018, June). *Flexibility in Action: How Infants and Adults Navigate Under a Barrier.* International Congress on Infant Studies, Philadelphia, PA.

20. [†]Borenstein, H., [†]Chen, A., [†]Xu, M., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2018, June). *A Toy's Story: Exploration, Discovery, Implementation, and Construction.* International Congress on Infant Studies, Philadelphia, PA.

21. Ogren, M., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Johnson, K. L., & Johnson, S. P. (2018, June). *Infant Emotion Discrimination from Biological Motion*. International Congress on Infant Studies, Philadelphia, PA.

22. Ossmy, O., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Xu, M., & Adolph, K. E. (2018, March). Development of flexibility in tool use. Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA.
23. Ossmy, O., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Han, D., Xu, M., & Adolph, K. E. (2017, November) *Neural Patterns Underlying the Development of Planning in Tool Use.* Society for Neuroscience, Washington D.C.
24. **Kaplan, B. E.**, Rachwani, J., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., & Adolph, K. E. (2017, November). *Hidden Affordances in Plain Sight: Discovering Possibilities for Action with Duplo Blocks.* International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Washington D.C.
25. Ossmy, O., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Han, D., Xu, M., & Adolph, K. E. (2017, November) *Neural Patterns Underlying the Development of Planning in Tool Use.* International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Washington D.C.
26. Herzberg, O., Rachwani, J., **Kaplan, B. E.**, O'Grady, S. M., Comalli, D. M., & Adolph, K. E. (2017, November). *Flexibility in Action: How Infants and Adults Navigate Under a Barrier.* International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Washington D.C.
27. Ossmy, O., **Kaplan, B. E.**, Han, D., Xu, M., & Adolph, K. E. (2017, October) *Neural Patterns Underlying the Development of Planning in Tool Use.* Cognitive Development Society, Portland, OR.

Invited Talks

2025	DUPLO Design Team, Lego Group
2024	Center for Brain and Cognitive Development, Birkbeck, University of London
2023	Department of Psychology, University of East London
2023	Department of Psychology, UT Austin
2022	Department of Cognitive Science, UC San Diego

Teaching

Fall 2025	Guest Lecture: Behavioral Video Annotation, UT Austin
Spring 2025	TA: Machine Learning, UT Austin
Fall 2023	Guest Lecture: Behavioral Video Annotation, UT Austin
Spring 2017	TA: Developmental Psychology, NYU

Undergraduate Students Mentored

2024 – 2025	Elton Martinez, UT Austin, Honors Thesis (computational)
2024 – 2025	Richard Valladeras, UT Austin
2024 – 2025	Ruchi Shah, UT Austin (computational)
2024 – 2025	Bryanna Boone, UT Austin (computational)
2023 – 2024	Julia Ritchie, UT Austin
2021 – 2022	Shivani Parulekar, NYU
2020 – 2021	Isabella Kasaba, NYU, Honors Thesis
2018 – 2020	Carmen Zhang, NYU, Deans Undergraduate Research Fund recipient
2018 – 2019	Katarina Clegg, NYU, Deans Undergraduate Research Fund recipient
2017 – 2018	Anty Chen, NYU
2017 – 2018	Hannah Borenstein, NYU, Honors Thesis, Deans Undergraduate Research Fund recipient
2015 – 2016	Krista Frakes, UCLA

Professional Affiliations:

Cognitive Development Society; International Society for Developmental Psychobiology; International Congress on Infant Studies; Society for Research in Child Development; Cognitive Science Society.

Adhoc Reviewer:

Child Development; Cognitive Development; Developmental Science; Acta Psychologica.

Academic Service

2021 – 2022	Student Social Chair of NYU C&P Student Board
2021	NYU Virtual Preview Day Coordinator
2020 – 2023	NYU Virtual Research Internship Mentor
2020	NYU Virtual Research Internship Coordinator