

Reading and arithmetic are important skills that children learn in the first years of primary school. Although they may seem like very different skills, children's performance on reading and arithmetic is in fact highly correlated: Children who perform well on one skill tend to also perform well on the other.

We are currently studying which factors at the behavioral and at the brain level drive this similarity between reading and arithmetic. To do that, we ask children 10 to 14 years old to do a series of arithmetic, reading and other cognitive tasks. Children also do exercises in a scanner that safely measures the magnetic resonance of their brain. The MRI scan allows us to investigate what

We recently sought to examine this by looking at results from almost 1400 students in grades 1-6. We found that on almost all tests of fundamental number processing boys and girls do equally well. The exception to this rule was number line estimation. In number line estimation students are asked to determine the spatial position of a number on a number line. For example, you may show

differences. It is important for teachers and parents to be aware that there is more evidence for gender similarities in early and later evidence than there is evidence for gender differences. We know that there are negative consequences for female students from having the stereotype that girls are worse at math than boys. We need to move away from these false opinions and heed the data. There is no reason for anybody to think that girls are inherently worse than boys at math. Boys and girls are equally capable of reaching their full potential in math.

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Professor

Our Thanks!!

Thank you to all of the school personnel, parents, and children who make our studies possible. Thank you also to the talented graduate students working on these research projects!

Thank you to all of the parents who have indicated that they would like to be contacted for future studies. As we continue working on our research projects, we greatly appreciate your continued participation.