

First Grade Report Cards: an Indicator of Future Success?



David Geary

Curators' Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences & Interdisciplinary Neuroscience

CURRENT RESEARCH


Understanding poor academic outcomes and how to remediate them

Mathematics is the key to success in scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematics fields, and influences employment and wage opportunities in many blue-collar occupations. Unfortunately, almost one out of four adults in the United States do not have the basic mathematical skills needed for today's job market or to cope with the routine quantitative demands of day-to-day living. Dr. David Geary, Curators' Professor of Psychology and Interdisciplinary Neuroscience at the University of Missouri, is focused on identifying the causes of poor academic outcomes and how to remediate them. Surprisingly, the risk of long-term innumeracy begins before children enter 1st grade, with children who start 1st grade behind their peers tending to stay behind throughout schooling and into adulthood, independent of intelligence or reading ability. Dr. Geary is taking a scientific approach to address the challenges that children face in the classroom and to develop ways to combat these challenges, with a specific focus on mathematics.

As a leader in the field, Dr. Geary was on the President's National Mathematics Advisory Panel and was also appointed to the National Advisory Board for the Institute of National Sciences. Based on his research on mathematical cognition and learning he received a MERIT award from the National Institutes of Health, which is given to less than 2% of funded researchers. Among other contributions, Dr. Geary's ten year, kindergarten to 9th grade, longitudinal study is the longest and most comprehensive study of children's mathematical development and learning disabilities ever conducted; results from the study have been featured in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and many...

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AFFILIATION

 University of Missouri-Columbia

EDUCATION

- B.S., 1979, Santa Clara University
- M.S., 1981, California State University, Hayward
- M.A., 1984, University of California, Riverside
- Ph.D., 1986, University of California, Riverside

AWARDS

- Fellow, Association for Psychological Science, 2005
- Co-recipient G. A. Miller Award, American Psychological Association, 2009
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2011
- Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2014
- Fellow, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University, 2015

RESEARCH AREAS

Education, STEM

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support Dr. Geary as he studies the factors that contribute to the future success of students. Donations will fund intervention studies of preschool children's quantitative skills to better prepare at-risk children in first-grade formal mathematics, studies of knowledge needed for success in high school algebra, and studies of sex differences in vulnerability to environmental and social stressors. The state of our education system is in our hands; help assess and improve the next generation's opportunity for success.