

# Erim Kızildere

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D., Developmental Psychology** 2021-Present  
University of California, Davis, CA  
*Advisor:* Lisa M. Oakes  
4.00/4.00 cumulative GPA

**M.A., Cognitive Psychology**  
2018-2021  
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Advisor:* Tilbe Gökşun  
4.00/4.00 cumulative GPA

**B.A., Psychology** 2014-2018  
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
4.11/4.00 cumulative GPA

**B.A., Economics** 2012-2018  
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
3.98/4.00 cumulative GPA

**Erasmus Exchange Program, Economics** Spring 2015  
Sciences Po, Paris, France

*Cognitive and Brain Sciences Track Program* 2015-2018  
• Courses: Psychology of Learning and Cognition, Introduction to Cognitive Sciences, Introduction to Computer Programming with Matlab

*Finance Track Program* 2015-2018  
• Courses: Corporate Finance, Investment Management, Financial Markets and Institutions, Financial Statement Analysis

*Macroeconomic Policy and Financial Markets Track Program* 2015-2016  
• Courses: Money and Banking, Corporate Finance, International Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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I focus on play through the inspiration of how play develops shared spheres among humans, invokes happiness and imagination, and provides unique experiences to learn and reason about the world. I have three main focuses: 1) how parent-infant interactions during play provide learning opportunities to infants, 2) how parents tailor their input based on their infants' developmental levels, and 3) how play is connected with children's socio-cognitive abilities including language, theory of mind, and executive functions.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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*Graduate Research Assistant, Infant Cognition Lab.* Sept. 2021-Present  
University of California, Davis, CA  
Supervisor: Prof. Lisa M. Oakes  
Participating in research that investigates infant learning and attention in naturalistic play settings using head-mounted eye tracking on both parents and infants, as well as conducting studies with remote eye trackers in more controlled experimental designs to examine infant cognition

*Graduate Research Assistant, Language and Cognition Lab.* Sept. 2018-Aug. 2021  
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Tilbe Göksun  
Coordinated a research program on pre- and full-term infants cognitive and language development  
Designed a new pretend play task and conducted research on pretense and cognitive development

*Research Assistant, School of Medicine* Sept. 2017-May 2018  
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
Supervisor: Prof. Pekcan Ungan  
Tested participants and recorded their EEG data

*Research Assistant, Brain Mechanisms of Language Learning Lab.* Summer 2017  
University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain  
Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Ruth de Diego-Balaguer & Postdoc Estela Càmara Mancha  
Analyzed behavioral data and fMRI data through Matlab and SPM

*Research Assistant, Language and Cognition Lab.* Dec. 2016-Sept. 2018  
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Tilbe Göksun  
Coded and analyzed data in a research of language and pretend play association

*Research Assistant, Timing and Decision Making Lab.* Sept. 2016- Sept. 2018  
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
Supervisor: Prof. Fuat Balcı  
Designed and conducted experiments on gamification of several cognitive tests  
Tested participants for a time perception experiment

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### TEACHING EXPERIENCE (*as teaching assistant*)

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Developmental Psychology (PSC 140Y; Dr. Lisa M. Oakes)	Fall 2024
Developmental Psychology (PSC 140Y; Dr. Lisa M. Oakes)	Fall 2023
Cognitive Development (PSC 141; Dr. Katharine Graf Estes)	Spring 2023
Developmental Psychology (PSC 140Y; Dr. Lisa M. Oakes)	Fall 2022
Developmental Psychology (PSC 140; Dr. Katharine Graf Estes)	Spring 2022
Infant Development (PSC 143; Dr. Lisa M. Oakes)	Winter 2022
Developmental Psychology (PSC 140Y; Dr. Lisa M. Oakes)	Fall 2021
Research Methods in Psychology (Psyc 301; Dr. Tilbe Göksun)	Spring 2020
Psychology of Learning and Cognition (Psyc 205; Dr. Berivan Ece Usta)	Fall 2019
Cognitive Development (Psyc 445; Dr. Tilbe Göksun)	Spring 2019
Brain and Behavior (Psyc 220; Dr. Terry Eskenazi)	Fall 2018

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### PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

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#### **PUBLICATIONS**

**Kızıldere, E.,** & Nelson, C. M., Casasola, M., Graf Estes, K., Oakes, L. M. (under revision). Parents' multimodal spatial language structures infants' in-the-moment attention during spatial play.

Doğan, I., **Kızıldere, E.,** Kobaş, M., Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, E., Akman, İ., & Göksun, T. (under revision). Early caregiver multimodal input is differentially associated with later vocabulary knowledge for preterm infants.

**Kızıldere, E.,** & Göksun, T. (2025). Playing minds: Parental pretend play input and infants' vocabulary development. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 49(1), 26-37.

- Esmer, Ş. C., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Göksun, T. (2023). *Smashing* verb learning through parental sound symbolic input in preterm and full-term children. *Language Acquisition*, 31(3–4), 284–305.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10489223.2023.2257177>
- Aktan-Erciyes, A., Akbuğa, E., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Göksun, T. (2023). Motion event representation in L1-Turkish versus L2-English speech and gesture: Relations to eye movements for event components. *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 27(1), 61–86.
- Kızıldere, E.**, Esmer, E. C., & Göksun, T. (2022). From *woof woof* to *dog*: Interactions between parents' use of sound symbolic words and infants' vocabulary development. *Infancy*, 27(5), 972–996.
- Kobaş, M., **Kızıldere, E.**, Doğan, I., Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, Ö. E., Akman, İ., & Göksun, T. (2022). Motor skills, language development, and visual processing in preterm and full-term infants. *Current Psychology*, 1–13.
- Kızıldere, E.**, Aktan-Erciyes, A., Tahiroğlu, D., & Göksun, T. (2020). A multidimensional investigation of pretend play and language competence: Concurrent and longitudinal relations in preschoolers. *Cognitive Development*, 54, 100870.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Kızıldere, E.**, Nelson, C. M., Casasola, M., Graf Estes, K., Oakes, L. M. (2025, May). *Parents' spatial language and deictic gestures structure infants' in-the-moment attention during spatial play*. Symposium talk to be presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Minneapolis, MN, United States.
- Pai, I. J., **Kızıldere, E.**, Oakes, L. M., & Graf Estes, K. G. (2025, May). *The interplay of child attention with parent speech when reading together: A head-mounted eye-tracking study*. Poster to be presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Minneapolis, MN, United States.
- Kızıldere, E.**, & Klotz, S. (2024, December). Efficacy of multiple quiz attempts as an active learning strategy on students' performance. Poster presented at the UC Davis 9th Annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference, Davis, CA, United States.
- Kızıldere, E.**, Nelson, C. M., Rhemtulla, M., & Oakes, L. M. (2024, March). Temporal coordination of visual attention between parents and 9-month-old infants. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA, United States.
- Pai, I. J., **Kızıldere, E.**, Graf Estes, K. G., & Oakes, L. M. (2024, March). How can parents encourage infants' attention to books when reading together? Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA, United States.
- Prabhu, N., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Oakes, L. M. (2024, March). Context dependent language input in parent-infant interactions: A comparative analysis of puzzle and busyboard play. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA, United States.
- Kızıldere, E.**, Nelson, C., Casasola, M., Oakes, L. M. (2023, May). *Does parents' spatial language input structure infants' attention during puzzle play?* Talk presented at the UC Davis Psychology Spring Conference, Davis, CA, United States.
- Kızıldere, E.**, Nelson, C., Casasola, M., Oakes, L. M. (2023, March). *Does parents' spatial multimodal input structure infants' attention during puzzle play?* Symposium talk presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.

- Esmer, Ş. C., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Göksun, T. (2023, January). *Parental sound symbolic input at 20-months predicts 4-year-olds' motion event descriptions*. Poster presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.
- Esmer, Ş. C., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Göksun, T. (2022, September). *Ebeveynlerin yansıma kelime girdisi ile erken ve zamanında doğan bebeklerin fiil bilgisi arasındaki ilişkiler: Dilsel birim ve ikonik jestlerin rolü*. Poster presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Developmental Psychology Symposium, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Nelson, C., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Oakes, L. M. (2022, July). *Dynamic relations between infant and parent looking during joint puzzle play*. Poster presented at the International Congress of Infant Studies, Ottawa, Canada.
- Esmer, Ş. C., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Göksun, T. (2022, June). *The relations between parental sound symbolic input and preterm and term infants' verb knowledge: The role of linguistic unit and iconic gestures*. Poster presented at the International Max Planck Research School for Language Sciences Conference, Nijmegen, Netherlands.
- Esmer, Ş. C., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Göksun, T. (2022, January). *Parental sound symbolic input changes for preterm and term infants*. Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.
- Doğan, I., **Kızıldere, E.**, Kobaş, M., Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, E., & Göksun, T. (2021, November). *Early caregiver multimodal input is differentially associated with later vocabulary knowledge for preterm infants*. Poster presented at Annual Harvard Women in Psychology Trends in Psychology Summit.
- Kızıldere, E.**, Kobaş, M., Doğan, I., Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, E., & Göksun, T. (2021, July). Event representation, parental spatial input, and relational language comprehension in full-term and preterm infants. Paper presented in Demir-Lira (chair), *Beyond quantity-quality: Specifying aspects of high-quality parental language input that predict optimal child outcomes*. International Association for the Study of Child Language.
- Doğan, I., **Kızıldere, E.**, Kobaş, M., Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, E., & Göksun, T. (2021, July). *Parental verbal input in different gestational weeks and atypical development*. Oral presentation presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Association for the Study of Child Language.
- Kobaş, M., **Kızıldere, E.**, Aktan-Erciyes, A., Doğan, I., & Göksun, T. (2021, July). *Fine motor abilities, visual perception, and language development in preterm and term infants*. Poster presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Association for the Study of Child Language.
- Kızıldere, E.**, Eser, Ö., & Göksun, T. (2021, April). *Parents' pretense input supports infants' language development*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development.
- Kızıldere, E.**, Kobaş, M., Doğan, I., Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, E., Akman, İ. & Göksun, T. (2021, April). *Parents' spatial language scaffolds pre- and full-term infants' mental rotation skills*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development.
- Doğan, I., **Kızıldere, E.**, Kobaş, M., Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, E., Akman, İ. & Göksun, T. (2021, April). *Parents' gestural but not verbal input associates with word comprehension in pre- and full-term infants*. Flash talk given on *Lexical Development: environment and mechanisms on Child Development* at the Society for Research on Child Development.
- Esmer, Ş. C., **Kızıldere, E.**, & Göksun, T. (2021, April). *Parents tailoring their sound symbolic input to develop infants' vocabulary*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development.
- Doğan, I., Kobaş, M., **Kızıldere, E.**, Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, E., Akman, İ. & Göksun, T. (2021,

February). *Zamanından Önce Doğan Bebeklerde Dil, Ebeveyn Etkileşimi ve Motor Gelişimi İlişkisi*. Oral presentation at the 8th Prof. Dr. Hıfzı Özcan Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Disorders Congress, Istanbul, Turkey.

**Kızıldere, E.,** Dik, F. N., & Göksun, T. (2021, January). *The relation between pretend play and gesture production in preschoolers*. Poster presented at 11<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.

**Kızıldere, E.,** Eser, Ö., Arslan, N., & Göksun, T. (2021, January). *Earlier parental pretend play input predicts later gesture comprehension of infants*. Poster presented at 11<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.

Doğan, I., Kobaş, M., **Kızıldere, E.,** Aktan-Erciyes, A., Demir-Lira, E., Akman, İ. & Göksun, T. (2021, January). *Parents' gestures scaffold preterm children's vocabulary use through children's gestures*. Poster presented at 11<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.

Esmer, Ş. C., **Kızıldere, E.,** & Göksun, T. (2021, January). *Parents' sound symbolic input responsive to infants' age and expressive vocabulary*. Poster presented at 11<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.

**Kızıldere, E.,** Dik, F. N., Aycan, P. B., & Göksun, T. (2020, January). *The magical book: A new pretend play task and relations with language and theory of mind*. Poster presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.

Kobaş, M., **Kızıldere, E.,** Aktan-Erciyes, A., Doğan, I., & Göksun, T. (2020, January). *Gross motor abilities, visual perception, and language development in preterm and term infants*. Poster presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary.

Kobaş, M., **Kızıldere, E.,** Aktan-Erciyes, A., Doğan, I., & Göksun, T. (2019, September). *Bebeklerde dil becerilerinin kaba motor ve görsel-uzamsal becerilerle ilişkisi*. Poster presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Developmental Psychology Symposium, Izmir, Turkey.

**Kızıldere, E.,** Aktan-Erciyes, A., Kobaş, M., Demir-Lira, E., Doğan, I., & Göksun, T. (2019, September). *Term ve preterm bebeklerde olay temsili ve ebeveynlerin uzam girdisi*. Poster presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Experimental-Cognitive Psychology Symposium, Istanbul, Turkey.

**Kızıldere, E.,** Aktan-Erciyes, A., Tahiroğlu, D., & Göksun, T. (2019, March). *Pretend play predicting children's language competence*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Aktan-Erciyes, A., **Kızıldere, E.,** & Göksun, T. (2019, March). *The role of second language proficiency on speech, gestures, and eye-gaze for descriptions of motion events in first and second languages*. Poster presented at the International Conference on Psychological Science, Paris, France.

**Kızıldere, E.,** Aktan-Erciyes, A., Tahiroğlu, D., & Göksun, T. (2018, November). *Çocukların dil gelişmişliğinin hayali oyunla ilişkisi*. Poster presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> National Psychology Congress, Ankara, Turkey.

Aktan-Erciyes, A., **Kızıldere, E.,** & Göksun, T. (2018, November). *İkinci dil düzeyinin anadil ve ikinci dilde hareket olay anlatımı, jest ve göz izleme süreçlerindeki etkisi*. Poster presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> National Psychology Congress, Ankara, Turkey.

**Kızıldere, E.,** Aktan-Erciyes, A., Tahiroğlu, D., & Göksun, T. (2018, April). *Pretend play, language and theory of mind*. Poster presented at the Social Cognition Conference, Ankara, Turkey.

**Kızıldere, E.,** Aktan-Erciyes, A., Tahiroğlu, D., & Göksun, T. (2018, January). *Pretend play and narrative creation*. Poster presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development,

Budapest, Hungary.

## BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

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<i>Mentor, Deans Office, Koç University, Istanbul</i>	Sept. 2015-May 2017
Mentored freshman college students in their transition to college	
<i>Intern, Inventory Management Department, Turkish Do &amp; Co, Istanbul</i>	Aug. 2015
Managed the inventory loadings and planned the equipment of different rotations	
<i>Intern, Finance and Accounting Department, Aktif Group, Istanbul</i>	July 2015
Entered accounting data and managed customer relations in financing	
<i>Intern, Planning Department, Turkish Do &amp; Co, Istanbul</i>	Aug. 2014
Handled rotation and loading plans, participated in meal tests, and prepared the production cards	
<i>Office Assistant, Public Relations Department, Koç University, Istanbul</i>	Sept. 2013-Dec. 2014
Handled administrative tasks and participated in preparation of conferences on campus	

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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<i>Member, Graduate Student Psychology DEI Committee</i>	June 2022- Sept. 2024
Developing and leading the implementation of new initiatives to continuously shape the program to be conducive for students of all backgrounds	
<i>Graduate Student Peer Mentor, UC Davis Department of Psychology</i>	Sept. 2022- Sept. 2023
Mentoring a newcoming Ph.D. student on navigating the first of your graduate school	
<i>Associate Editor, Journal of European Psychology Students</i>	June 2021-Present
Reviewing manuscripts for an open-access journal for psychology students worldwide	
<i>Founding Member, Associate Editor, Koç Uni. Undergraduate Psyc. Journal</i>	Spring 2017-Sept. 18
Took part in the founding of the first English undergraduate psychology journal in Turkey Reviewed and edited manuscripts, prepared, and published issues	
<i>Organization Team Member, Koç University Living Library Project, Istanbul</i>	Sept. 2013-June 2014
Assisted the organization of a social responsibility project against discrimination	
<i>Member, KoçDans, Koç University, Istanbul</i>	Fall 2012-Spring 2013
Practiced Salsa and Social Latin dances	

## HONORS & AWARDS

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<b>UC Davis SoTL Conference Best Poster Award</b>	Dec. 2024
Award given by faculty at the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference	
<b>UC Davis Psychology Department Outstanding Mentorship Award</b>	June 2023
<b>UC Davis Psychology Conference Graduate Student Talk Award</b>	May 2023 & May 2024
Award given twice, ranked 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
<b>UC Davis Summer Research Fellowship</b>	Summer 2023
\$8,600 USD, 3 months	
<b>UC Davis Early Graduate Career Fellowship</b>	Oct. 2022
\$14,199 USD, 3 months	
<b>UC Davis Diverse Mentoring Initiative Award</b>	2022, 2023, & 2024

\$500 USD given three times to provide workshops to increase DEI in the department

**UC Davis Dukes Travel Award** 2022, 2023, & 2024  
\$500 USD given two times and \$750 USD given once

**Fee Waivers for BCCCD 2021, 2020, & 2018** 2021, 2020, & 2018  
11<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development

**Turkish National Psychology Congress Poster Award** 2018  
Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> best poster at the 20<sup>th</sup> Turkish National Psychology Congress

**National Science Foundation of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Graduate Fellowship** 2018-2020  
₺48,000 TRY (≈ \$7,000 USD), 24 months

**Koç University TÜBİTAK Research Award** Oct. 2018  
₺2,000 TRY (≈ \$350 USD)

**Koç University *Summa cum laude*** 2018

**Koç University Vehbi Koç Scholar** 2013-2018

**Koç University Dean's Honor Roll** 2013-2018

**Koç University Full Scholarship (Tuition Coverage)** 2012  
Ranked 336<sup>th</sup> among 1.8 million students at the National University Examination

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### SKILLS

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**Languages**    **English:** Advanced  
                  **Spanish:** Upper Intermediate  
                  **French:** Elementary  
                  **German:** Beginner

**Computer**    **Programming:** MATLAB, R, SPSS, Jamovi  
                  **Programming Extensions/Tools:** Psychtoolbox, Statistical Parametric Mapping (SPM)  
                  **MS Office:** Excel, Word, PowerPoint