

Presented by:

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Questions?

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**“Little Liars:
The Development of Children’s Verbal
Deception and the Implications for Child
Witness Testimony”**

- Law, Psychology, and Human Development
- Department of Human Development
- Cornell Law School
- Center for Behavioral Economics and Decision Research
- Department of Psychology

Victoria Talwar

Assoc. Professor
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Honesty is a virtue that is highly valued in our society. It is viewed as a moral obligation, encouraged by parents and educators and required by clinicians, social workers, and legal professionals. In particular for the courts, the veracity of child witness testimony is central to the justice system where there are serious consequences for the child, the accused, and society. Thus, it is important to examine how children’s lie-telling abilities develop and the factors that can influence their truthfulness.

Dr. Talwar will discuss the development of children’s verbal deception in relation to their cognitive and social development. She will present research on how children’s lie-telling abilities emerge in the preschool years and their ability to successfully deceive increases with age. Data on different methods of promoting children’s truthful reports will also be presented. She will discuss the implications for child witness testimony and the social and motivational factors that can affect the truthfulness of children’s reports.



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