



Michele Kortenaar

Director of Education, Sciencenter

Ms. Michelle Kortenaar has decades of experience teaching science as well as developing curriculum and informal science educational programs. She is responsible for overseeing the development and delivery of all educational programs offered by the Sciencenter both on and off-site. She has leveraged partnerships with Cornell and Ithaca College to provide weekly science presentations for museum visitors, and internships and research by individuals from Cornell's Early Childhood

Cognition Lab. Through SENCER-ISE she will deepen the Sciencenter's relationship with researchers in early childhood cognition and facilitate the use of current research by parents and other adults.



Tamar Kushnir

**Evalyn Edwards Milman Assistant Professor of Child Development, Cornell University
Director, Early Childhood Cognition Laboratory at Cornell University**

Dr. Tamar Kushnir's research examines mechanisms of learning in young children. Her previous work has addressed: (1) how children use statistical evidence to learn new causal relations (2) how children's prior causal beliefs are affected by new evidence, and, (3) how children's developing social knowledge and their experience of action influences causal learning.

She continues to explore the role that children's developing knowledge - in particular their social knowledge - plays in learning, a question with implications for the study of cognitive development as well as for early childhood education. Through SENCER-ISE Dr. Kushnir and her students will partner with the Sciencenter to translate research in the lab into information for use by parents as they explore the Sciencenter.