

***THIS STUDY NO LONGER RECRUITING***

**Name of Study:** The Development of Word Meaning

**Location:** University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

**Eligibility Criteria:** Ages between 8 and 14 with a high-functioning Autistic Spectrum Disorder

**Principal Investigator:** Karla McGregor, Ph.D.

**Contact Information:** Amanda Murphy, Research Coordinator; phone: (319)353-5779; e-mail [child-language@uiowa.edu](mailto:child-language@uiowa.edu)

Dear Parents:

We are conducting research about language learning difficulties in children. We are particularly interested in the word learning of children who have high-functioning autism spectrum disorders. In this research project, we are examining the language abilities of children who meet this description through a variety of experiments.

Two of the experiments are computer games that involve figuring out what new words mean. Another involves a school-like exercise in which children are asked to define familiar words. All of the experiments are designed to be pleasant experiences for children. Toys/games are awarded and snacks are provided.

We are currently inviting children to participate in our research who are between the ages of 8 and 14 years old. The amount of time involved is usually 6-10 hours spread over two-six visits (we keep the amount of time and the number of visits flexible to accommodate the work pace of the child). We see children at the Word Learning Lab on the campus of the University of Iowa or at another appropriate location, such as a library or school near you, if that is more convenient. If you participate, you will receive \$30 every visit as compensation to help defray any travel costs and to compensate you for your time.

If you choose to participate, we will complete a language assessment to make a final determination of eligibility, the results of which we'll share with you. You have been given this letter so that you can decide whether you would like more information. We will not be aware of you or your child's identity unless you contact us.

If you would like to find out more about this research project, please contact Amanda Murphy, research coordinator. You may e-mail [child-language@uiowa.edu](mailto:child-language@uiowa.edu) or call in Iowa City (319)353-5779 or State-wide toll free (866)778-5816. You may also visit our website: <http://www.shc.uiowa.edu/wjshc/research/wll/index.html> to find out general information about our laboratory.

Growth in understanding of autism and learning disabilities depends on generous volunteers like you. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karla McGregor, Ph.D.  
Word Learning Lab  
Dept. Speech Pathology and Audiology  
The University of Iowa