

THIS STUDY NO LONGER RECRUITING

Name of Study: A Multi-Site Clinical Randomized Trial of Hanen's More Than Words Intervention

Location: University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

Eligibility Criteria: Toddlers between the ages of 15 and 24 months who are at risk for or have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Caregivers must be willing to: (1) be randomly assigned to the treatment or control group, (2) attend weekly intervention sessions for 14-16 weeks, and (3) participate in three assessments over a nine-month period. English or Spanish can be the primary language spoken in the home for this project.

Exclusion Criteria: Toddlers with evidence of severe sensory or motor impairments or of metabolic or genetic disorders may not be eligible for this study.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniel Messinger

Contact Information: Dr. Kara Kelley, Coordinator; Claudia Cardona, Research Associate phone: (305) 284-1042

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to offer your child an opportunity to participate in Building Social Communication Skills in Young Children, a research study at the University of Miami. The goal of our research is to determine whether children in families who receive Hanen's More than Words training program show gains in social communication and language. The More than Words program teaches parents to motivate their child to communicate by following their child's lead during play, adjusting the way they speak to make it easier for their child to understand their language, and creating structured, fun, and predictable games that provide opportunities to reward successful conversational turn-taking.

We are currently recruiting toddlers between the ages of 15 to 24 months of age. To determine eligibility, we will complete a screening which will include a 20-minute assessment of your child's social communication skills and a brief parent interview. After this screening you will be informed if your child is eligible for the study. **If your family is assigned to the training group**, you will meet with the Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) in a small group format for training on the More than Words program. Additionally, four visits will be conducted in your home with the SLP to practice some of the strategies learned in the group sessions. Your participation for the entire study including follow-ups will last approximately nine months. **If your family is assigned to the non-training group**, no formal intervention training will be offered. However, participation in the non-training group will also last about nine months and will include follow-up assessments.

You will be compensated for completing the screening visit whether or not you are eligible for participation in the study. Additionally, you will be further compensated for your participation over the course of the study regardless of your group assignment. There is no charge to participate in the study.

More information about this study can be found at <http://asdintervention.psy.miami.edu>. If you are interested in participating, please contact Claudia Cardona, our Research Associate, at (305) 284-1042. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Claudia Cardona, BA, BCABA
Research Associate
Department of Psychology, Child Division
University of Miami