

THIS STUDY NO LONGER RECRUITING

Name of Study: A survey of Parent Stress and Satisfaction about Services for Children with Pervasive Developmental Disorders

Eligibility Criteria: Parents/step-parents/foster parents/grandparents/primary caregivers of children (ages 0 through 8 years) with Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

Type of study: Mail based

Principal Investigator: Shital Gaitonde, M.Ed.

Supervised by: Maureen Sullivan Ph.D.

Contact Information: Shital Gaitonde, spgaitonde@gmail.com

(To receive a study packet by mail, just email your name and mailing address to me at my email address spgaitonde@gmail.com).

Dear Parents,

My name is Shital Gaitonde and I am a second year graduate student in the clinical psychology program at Oklahoma State University. My thesis topic is 'A survey of Parent Stress and Satisfaction about Services for Children with Pervasive Developmental Disorders'. I am interested in learning about the experiences of parents of children with autism about the diagnostic and treatment services available.

You will be eligible to participate in this study if:

- a. You have a child who has been diagnosed as having any of the pervasive developmental disorders (Autism, Asperger's, Rhett's disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified.)
- b. Your child is in the age range of 0-8 years.
- c. You are the primary care giver for this child. (e.g. biological parents, adoptive parent, foster parent, sibling, grandparent, legal guardian).

Note: If there are two or more children in the family diagnosed with autism, provide information regarding the oldest child. If there are twins diagnosed with autism, then parents should provide information about the child who was born first.

This study takes less than an hour to complete. It requires you to complete following 6 forms:

- a. Informed consent: Be sure to read and sign this consent form before completing the other questionnaires.
- b. Personal information: This will be used to contact you for future follow up studies if you give your permission.
- c. Early Autism Experiences Survey: This will help us gather information about the parent experiences. Be sure to read the instructions before answering these questions.

- d. Demographic Questionnaire: This will help us gather information about diverse information regarding the kinds of families who participate.
- e. Perceived Stress Scale: This measure will be used to gather information regarding current stress that parents are experiencing.
- f. Parent Stress Scale: This measure will be used to measure stress that parents are experiencing related to parenting.

When completing questionnaires, if there are specific questions you do not wish to answer, you may skip those items. Please be assured that all of the information you provide will remain confidential.

Please email your name and mailing address to me at spgaitonde@gmail.com, and I will send you a study packet.

Once you have completed the forms, just put them in the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope included in the packet and simply drop it in the mail. It will be great if you can complete and return this packet within one week of receiving it.

I would like to thank you by sending you information and resources available for pervasive developmental disorders. You will be able to indicate your preferences regarding the information you need. Here are some examples of the areas of information that are available:

- Language and Communication
- Social skills
- Asperger's Disorder
- Adolescent issues
- Toilet training
- Special education and Federal law

Thank you for your time and your efforts.

Sincerely,

Shital Gaitonde
Oklahoma State University