

***This Study No Longer Recruiting***

**Name of Study:** Parent Training for Young Children at Risk for Autism

**Location:** Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

**Eligibility Criteria:** Children between 15 and 24 months of age who are at risk for ASD

**Principal Investigators:** Drs. Wendy Stone and Paul Yoder

**Contact Information:** Nick Bennett, Research Assistant; phone (615) 343-7101

Dear Parent,

Vanderbilt professors Wendy Stone, PhD and Paul Yoder, PhD are conducting a new multi-site study designed to examine the benefits of a parent training intervention for improving social and communication skills in young children at risk for autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We are looking for children **between 15 months and 24 months of age who are at risk for ASD**. Children considered to be “at risk” are those:

- 1) who have failed a routine autism screening;
- 2) who have delays in social and communication development;
- 3) whose parents or service providers have expressed concerns about ASD; or
- 4) younger siblings of children with ASD whose parents have concerns about their social or communication development.

To qualify for this intervention study, parents must bring their children to Vanderbilt for a one-hour eligibility visit which may include parent interviews and direct assessment of your child. Participating families will be randomly assigned to a treatment group or a non-treatment group.

Families in the treatment group will participate in the **Hanen More Than Words** parent training program, which includes an initial group orientation session and a home visit from the therapist, followed by 8 weekly small group sessions at Vanderbilt and 3 private in-home sessions provided by a speech-language pathologist. Families in the non-treatment group will not receive intervention through this study but may be given more information about this intervention upon request once their study participation is complete.

All children will receive three assessments during the course of the 9-month study and families will be provided with a written report to summarize their child’s development. Both groups are free to continue their participation in any community-based intervention in which they are involved.

This study is funded by Autism Speaks and is also being conducted at the University of Miami and the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Compensation will be provided to families in both groups for their time.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact me at [nick.bennett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:nick.bennett@vanderbilt.edu) or 615-343-7101.

Sincerely,

Nick Bennett  
Research Assistant