

Name of Study: Early Identification of Autism: A Prospective Study

Location: Department of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Eligibility Criteria: Infants younger than 5 months who have an older sibling with autism and their parents

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jana Iverson

Contact Information: Lindsay Nickel, Project Coordinator, (412) 624-4517

Dear Parents:

I am writing to invite you and your baby to participate in a research study being carried out at the University of Pittsburgh. The purpose of this study is to observe the development of vocal, motor, communication, and social behaviors in infants with an older sibling who has been diagnosed with autism. This information will help us identify patterns of development that may be associated with increased risk of a later autism diagnosis.

In this study, we observe infants at home during everyday activities and play with a parent. With the exception of two visits to the Autism Center at the University of Pittsburgh, one at the beginning and a second at the end of project participation, families do not need to come to us. We will come to you. Every month from the infant's 5th to 14th month of age, with additional follow-up at 18, 24, and 36 months, we will visit you in your home to observe your infant. All visits are scheduled at your convenience and are, in our experience, both interesting and fun for participating families. We will also administer some standardized assessments of development and motor skill and ask you to complete questionnaires about your baby's development. Participation will involve a total of 13 sessions lasting approximately one hour each.

To thank you for helping us, your baby will receive a small, age-appropriate gift at the end of each session, even if s/he does not complete the session. You will also receive \$250 at the end of the study and a compilation DVD with brief clips from each of our visits.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Lindsay Nickel, our project coordinator, at (412) 624-4517 or by email at icl@pitt.edu. If you have questions about study participation, please feel free to contact me by phone (412-624-6160) or email (jiverson@pitt.edu).

Thank you very much in advance for your time and assistance. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Jana M. Iverson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Psychology
University of Pittsburgh