

**Name of Study:** Brain Development in Autism: Infant Siblings

**Location:** The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

**Eligibility Criteria:** Infants under 12 months of age with an older sibling diagnosed with autism

**Principal Investigator:** Robert Schultz, PhD, Sarah Paterson, PhD

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Dear Parent,

The Center for Autism Research at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is proud to announce a new study of very early brain development in infants at risk for autism. This multi-center study, which is funded by the National Institute of Health, involves the collaboration of five sites (UNC, CHOP, University of Washington, Washington University, and Montreal Neurological Institute) collectively known as the ACE Network and projects to enroll over 100 families of children with autism at the CHOP site alone.

The researchers at CHOP are studying brain development in autism by studying brain development in infant siblings of autistic individuals (i.e., who have older siblings diagnosed with autism). This study builds upon earlier findings of the network which indicate that brain enlargement in autism appears to start late in the first year of life. This innovative research will be using some of the most advanced brain imaging technology available to examine how brain structure changes during this important period from 12 to 24 months of age. The data gathered in this study will provide important information regarding early brain development in autism, which may in turn provide clues leading to earlier intervention strategies and better outcomes for children with autism.

If you have an older child who has been diagnosed with autism and are currently pregnant, or have an infant less than 12 months of age, your infant may be eligible for our study. Participating infants will receive developmental and behavioral assessments and an MRI scan of the brain.

Participation at the CHOP site is limited to residents of PA, NJ, CT, MA, NY, DE, VT, ME and NH as travel to the research facilities for a 2-3 day time period is required. Travel arrangements will either be provided for you or, if you choose to drive, your travel expenses will be reimbursed.

For residents in other states or for more information about how you can participate, please visit our website at [www.babysibsimaging.org](http://www.babysibsimaging.org) or call us toll free at (866) 570-6524 and refer to the Baby Sibs Study.

Thank you for your support in the advancement of autism research.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Paterson, PhD  
Center for Autism Research  
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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