

**Name of Study:** Psychophysiological and neuroendocrine reactivity patterns in children with Autism

**Location:** Sensory Processing And Stress Evaluation (SPASE) Lab, Richmond, VA

**Eligibility Criteria:** Children with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome, as well as typically developing children with no family history of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), ages 6 through 12 years

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Stacey Reynolds

**Contact Information:** Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Department of Occupational Therapy (804) 828-2288

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to offer your child an opportunity to participate in a research study at the VCU SPASE Lab. The study is looking at stress responses to sensory stimuli. Many treatments for children with ASD address deficits in sensory integration. Currently success of such treatment is only measured based on behavioral observation. This study will allow us to identify biomarkers to help better measure and quantify child's gains and to better understand sensory processing disorders in children with ASD.

When you and your child visit our lab we will record heart rate and other responses to sensory stimuli by putting sticker-like electrodes on your child's hand and chest. We also collect your child's spit to look at a stress hormone called Cortisol. We will get the spit by having them suck on pieces of cotton. We will also ask that you collect six samples of your child's spit at home before coming to the lab. For their participation, children will receive a prize from a prize box and you will receive a gift certificate to Target for \$50.00. Your trip to the lab will take approximately 1 ½ -2 hours. You will also fill out some forms at home and receive a report with your child's scores on these behavioral, anxiety, and sensory measures.

There is no charge to participate in the study. We are available to make appointments during the summer and on weekends. Parking is Free.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Stacey Reynolds at (804) 828-2288 or [reynoldsse3@vcu.edu](mailto:reynoldsse3@vcu.edu).

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. We look forward working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Stacey Reynolds PhD, OTR/L  
Department of Occupational Therapy  
Virginia Commonwealth University