

Name of Study: Promoting Development in Toddlers with Communication Delays
Location: Hunter College Communication & Play Lab, 695 Park Avenue, Hunter North Building, Room N634, New York, NY 10065
Eligibility Criteria: Toddlers between 16 and 30 months who show specific delays in communication or signs of early autism based on the screening and baseline assessments conducted in our lab. Both genders may participate.
Principal Investigator: Dr. Michael Siller
Contact Information: Meghan Sheridan, Research Assistant & Interventionist, phone: (212) 772-5630

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to offer you and your child an opportunity to participate in a research study at Hunter College. Children with communication delays often find it difficult to include their parents when playing with a toy. This is troublesome because successful play interactions provide virtually endless opportunities for learning—particularly about social relationships and communication. The current study aims to find out how parents can promote the communication of their young child.

If you would like to participate in our study, you will partake in an initial screening in which you will be asked to complete a questionnaire, participate in a phone interview, and take part in one assessment session. If found eligible, four visits to Hunter College will also be scheduled over a period of 12 months. During each visit, we will evaluate your child's developmental progress in terms of play, social interaction, and language.

About half the children and their mothers will be randomly selected and invited to participate in 12 in-home intervention sessions of an experimental parent education program. As part of this program, we will take a close look at your child's behavior and find out what you can do to make play interactions more successful and gratifying. The other half of children and their mothers will be invited to participate in four in-home training sessions on increasing social and emotional development. There is no charge to participate in the study.

If you are interested in learning more information about this study, please contact our Research Assistant, Meghan Sheridan, at (212) 772-5630.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Siller, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Psychology Department at Hunter College/City University of New York

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