

Name of Study: Behavioral and Neurobiological Investigation of Attention and Reasoning
Location: KIDLAB, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA
Eligibility Criteria: Children with High Functioning Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or PDD-NOS as well as typically developing children, ages 9 through 17.
Principal Investigator: M. Layne Kalbfleisch, M.Ed., Ph.D.
Contact Information: Ashlee Loughan, M.Ed., Pediatric Research Coordinator; aloughan@gmu.edu

Dear Parent,

Greetings from KIDLAB, an fMRI research lab located at George Mason University. Thank you for your interest in our research.

We are currently in the process of recruiting participants for our Autism Study. The project focuses on children between the ages of 9 and 17, those who are typically functioning and those who are diagnosed with high functioning autism in order to analyze differences in brain attention and reasoning processes. We would be thrilled to have your support and involvement. To contact us, please email Ashlee Loughan (aloughan@gmu.edu) or call the lab (703.993.9141) and we can answer your questions.

I'd like to give you a brief overview of what your experience with KIDLAB will be like if you decide to bring your child to participate in our study. There are at least three visits required to participate in our study. They will take place at KIDLAB on the Fairfax, Virginia campus of George Mason University. In the first session we will conduct basic cognitive testing with your child and ask you to complete a few questionnaires about your child while you wait. During the second meeting, children experience a mock fMRI to see what being in the MRI scanner will be like, the sounds it will make, and the puzzles they will solve during the actual scanning session. If, after this meeting, your child is cleared to participate and wants to take part in the fMRI portion of the study we will schedule another visit to complete the true fMRI scan. Otherwise, we will have them complete the puzzles on a computer outside of the MRI. We want the children to enjoy themselves each step of the way during their time at KIDLAB. Participants and parents are compensated for their time. We schedule at your convenience with flexible evening and weekend times available.

If you would like to find out more about KIDLAB before you talk with us, visit our website at <http://krasnow.gmu.edu/kidlab/>. In particular, located on the home page is a documentary (click on fMRI Documentary Summer 2008) about the lab and our study of autism and brain function across the lifespan. We look forward to hearing from you and partnering to gain further insight into not only the challenges of autism, but also its strengths!

See you soon,

M. Layne Kalbfleisch, M.Ed., Ph.D.
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