

Name of Study: Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation (EARLI) Study
Institution: Drexel University and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
Location: Philadelphia, PA

Eligibility Criteria:

- You are the biological mother of a child with an ASD diagnosis, such as autistic disorder, Asperger's syndrome, or pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS).
- You are ≤ 20 weeks pregnant or *may become pregnant in the future*.
- You are currently living in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, or Montgomery County in Pennsylvania, or Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer, or Salem County in New Jersey.

Principal Investigator: Craig J. Newschaffer, Ph.D.

Contact Information: Lauren Clay, Outreach Coordinator 877-821-0015 (toll free) or EARLI@drexel.edu

Dear IAN Research participant,

I am writing to invite you and your family to participate in the Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation (EARLI) Study, funded by the NIH Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) program and by Autism Speaks. This ground-breaking study focuses on how genetics and the environment during pregnancy and the first few years of a child's life may influence the development of autism.

We believe that the changes leading to autism happen very early in the prenatal period, or even before pregnancy. Our goal is to enroll mothers of a child with an autism spectrum disorder at the start of a new pregnancy and gather comprehensive information from early pregnancy through delivery, and until your new baby is 3 years old. Participation in EARLI involves study visits in the home and at the clinic, as well as filling out questionnaires and doing phone interviews. You will also be asked to provide biological samples throughout pregnancy, at delivery, and afterward.

This important research could not happen without families like yours and we know that your time is extremely valuable. Families that participate in EARLI will receive free autism assessments from clinical experts, including developmental and behavioral assessments of your new baby from 6 months until 3 years of age. Participants will be compensated for time and reimbursed for travel expenses. You will also receive a new diaper bag and gifts for your baby.

The Southeast Pennsylvania study site at Drexel University/CHOP is one of four EARLI research sites nationwide. If you would like to learn more about the EARLI Study, please contact Lauren Clay, our Outreach Coordinator, at 877-821-0015, or by e-mail at EARLI@drexel.edu. We are very interested in hearing from you even if you are not currently pregnant.

Thank you for your interest in autism research. I hope you will consider becoming a part of our effort to find the possible causes of autism and I wish the best to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Craig J. Newschaffer, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Drexel University School of Public Health
Principal Investigator, EARLI Study

IAN Reference: SR00225