

**Name of Study:** Detection Study of Visual Attention in Autism  
**Institution:** Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, Perceptual Development Lab  
**Location:** Waltham, MA  
**Eligibility Criteria:** Verbal children with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome ages 8 through 12 years with an IQ of 85 or greater.  
**Principal Investigator:** Teresa V. Mitchell, Ph.D. Director, Perceptual Development Lab  
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**Lab Website:** <http://users.umassmed.edu/teresa.mitchell/>

Dear Parents:

We are writing to invite you and your child to participate in a new study of visual attention. We are interested in how children use their attention to search for information in complex scenes. We wish to examine how autism affects these processes.

Your child will first complete a series of standardized assessments. Depending upon whether his or her scores meet criteria, your child will also be invited to participate in the experimental task. In the experimental task, children watch a computer screen that “flickers” between two versions of a complex scene and are asked to identify the single changing element in the scene. We measure their speed of response and location of eye gaze throughout the task.

Scheduling is flexible and made according to your convenience. Participation in this study will involve one or two visits to our lab at the Shriver Center in Waltham, MA. All of our study participants receive compensation for their time and a small gift. In addition, the results of the standardized assessments (the ADOS, Leiter IQ and Peabody Picture Vocabulary tests) will be available to you at no charge.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Teresa V. Mitchell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor  
Director, Perceptual Development Lab  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center  
University of Massachusetts Medical School

*IAN Research ID SR00333*