

Name of Study: Autism Intervention

Institution: Carnegie Mellon University

Location: Pittsburgh, PA

Eligibility Criteria: Verbal Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders with IQ>80, ages 10-15 years. Must not currently have braces (or plans for them within the next year). Must not have any non-removable metal implants in their body

Principal Investigator: Dr. Marlene Behrmann and Dr. Suzy Scherf

Contact Information: Michelle Perrin, Marketing Coordinator; phone: 866-647-3436

e-mail: autismrecruiter@upmc.edu

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to offer your child an opportunity to participate in a research study at Carnegie Mellon University. The study is looking at brain differences and brain development in autistic children, especially focusing on areas dealing with face and object processing. We are testing a novel computer-based learning intervention task that may help adolescents with autism improve their ability to remember and recognize faces.

Your child will come in for three different testing time points: the first scheduled time point, a second testing point two months after the initial testing, and a third time point one year after the initial testing. Each time point involves cognitive testing using computer and paper and pencil tests, as well as an fMRI scan. The third time point also involves an administration of the ADOS.

If your child is assigned to the intervention group (assignment is random), they will complete a computer-based training program that may improve face-recognition ability. The training will occur between the first and second fMRI testing sessions and will be completed at home on a laptop that we will provide you.

All subjects (regardless of whether they participate in the intervention) will receive \$90 at each time point for a total of \$270. Intervention participants will get an additional \$250 for completing the intervention. We will provide compensation for gas for all families.

We will also provide IQ testing to local families free of charge if your child has not been IQ tested.

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

Dr. Suzy Scherf, PhD

IAN Research ID SR00383