

Name of Study: Pitt Early Autism Study (P.E.A.S)

Institution: University of Pittsburgh

Location: Pittsburgh, PA

Eligibility Criteria: Infants between the ages of six and sixteen months with an older sibling diagnosed with or without Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Principal Investigator: Mark Strauss, Ph.D.

Contact Information: E-mail: infants@pitt.edu; website: www.pitt.edu/~infants

Dear Parent,

I am writing to invite you and your infant to participate in a research study at the NIH Autism Center of Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh. Previous research suggests that signs of autism may emerge within the first year of life. Thus, we are studying the development of infants who have an older brother or sister diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. By studying these infants who are at a greater risk for developing ASD, we hope to uncover infant behaviors that predict a later ASD diagnosis.

To understand how these infants are developing, we use a simple procedure. Babies, who visit our center at the University of Pittsburgh, will sit in a high chair while we show them pictures (for example, faces of people) and movies (for example, *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood*). While the babies are watching our "show" we record with cameras how their eyes are moving and which pictures they most prefer.

Our research study involves visits when your baby turns 6, 11, 16, 24, 36, and 48 months of age. These visits last about 3 hours. There are no charges involved. We will reimburse you for parking and compensate you for your time. If you live within several hours of the Pittsburgh area and are interested in participating, please contact (412) 624-8810 or infants@pitt.edu.

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

Sincerely,

Mark S. Strauss, Ph.D.

Director

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