

Cooperative Building

Attention Parents and Adults! University of Delaware's Move to Learn Lab is conducting the UD Autism Lab fNIRS Study

Principal Investigator: Anjana Bhat, PT, PhD

You are invited to participate in a study that examines brain activity when performing everyday skills in infants, children, adolescents, and adults with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Typically developing infants (3-18 mos.), children (3-14 yrs.), & healthy adolescents/adults (15-50 yrs.)
 - Infant siblings of children with ASD between 3 and 18 months
 - Preterm infants (< 37 weeks of gestation) between 3 and 18 months
 - Children with ASD between 3 and 14 years of age



• Adolescents and adults with ASD between 15 and 50 years

WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED?

- This study will involve 3 testing visits completed over 3 to 6 weeks. All visits will be completed in our lab at the UD STAR Health Sciences Complex. Each session lasts between 1 to 1.5 hours.
- Prior to participation in the study, individuals with autism will need to provide a letter from a pediatrician, psychologist, or psychiatrist confirming the autism diagnosis.
- At each visit, we will place a cap with LED lights on your or your child's head. Using fNIRS to capture brain activity during different tasks is a completely safe and non-invasive approach.
- If the participant is between 3 and 18 months of age, we will complete various play activities involving social or movement play with toys and caregivers.
- If the participant is between 3 to 50 years of age, you or your child will complete various social and motor skills including hammering pegs, swaying with a partner, and a cooperative building game.
- We will also ask you or your caregiver to fill out standardized questionnaires that will assess your or your child's movement and social interaction skills.
- We will assess various developmental skills in infants or social and movement skills in the children, adolescent, and adults.
- All testing sessions will be videotaped so that we can score the tests later. You will receive <u>\$30</u> as payment for participation upon completing all testing sessions (\$10 per fNIRS session completed).

You can help by volunteering for our study. Please email the study PI, Dr. Bhat at: <u>abhat@udel.edu</u> (preferred) or call the Move to Learn - Autism Lab at 1-302-831-7608.

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