

The Infant Sibling Study Grows Up!

You are receiving this update as part of your generous participation in the Infant Sibling Study at the UC Davis MIND Institute. What began as a study of infants and toddlers has grown into a long-term follow-up study of children as they progress through the school-age and adolescent years.



We are incredibly grateful for all you have done for this study over the years and are eager to share with you an exciting new opportunity to contribute to research on child development and neurodevelopmental disorders.

We're eager to learn more from you!

We are happy to announce that we were recently awarded a 5-year grant to continue our research and study social and cognitive development as your children get older. We're particularly interested in learning more about later-developing skills, such as peer relationships, as well as challenges children may encounter as they move through school, like ADHD, anxiety, and learning disabilities. With this long-term picture of development, we hope to improve our ability to detect difficulties as early as possible, so that children can get the interventions they need to be the most successful in life.

To answer these important questions, we need your help! We will soon be contacting you and your child and inviting you to come to the lab to participate in a variety of new activities, including comprehensive evaluations for ADHD, mood/anxiety problems, and learning difficulties. Families will be compensated for their time and effort (\$50 to the parent, and \$50 Target gift card to the participating child). Please **contact us at 916-703-0297 or ahill@ucdavis.edu** so we can update your information and to learn more about when we'd like to see you.

An update on what we've learned so far

Over the past 15 years, the Infant Sibling Study has followed three cohorts of infants, laying the groundwork for this new study we're embarking on with you. Between 2003 and 2017, over 400 families will have participated in our research!

Your involvement in the Infant Sibling Study has greatly contributed to our efforts to find early signs of autism, ADHD, and other behavioral and developmental challenges so that we can make diagnoses earlier and help children get treatment as soon as possible.

**It takes
a team**

This research would not be possible without you, the amazing families who participate. Thank you for being part of our team for all these years. We look forward to seeing you again soon as part of our new follow-up study!

**UC DAVIS
HEALTH**

**MIND
INSTITUTE**

(continued from previous page)

Here are some of the things we've learned from you and your family so far:

- The chances that a younger sibling of a child with autism will develop autism themselves is much higher than was originally thought, around 20%.
- Very few infants show signs of autism before their first birthday, and symptoms usually develop between 12 and 18 months of age.
- Accurate and stable diagnoses of autism can be made as early as 18 months of age.
- 30-40% of siblings of children with autism, who don't develop autism themselves, show some behavioral, social, learning, or language challenges — especially ADHD — by the time they reach elementary school.
- The average age of diagnosis of children in our study is over two years earlier than the national average, allowing many families to access intervention services much earlier than is typically possible. This achievement is a direct result of your continued participation in this study.

We look forward to seeing you soon as part of our new follow-up study!



Sally Ozonoff, Ph.D. and the Infant Sibling Study Team

Are you moving or changing contact information?

Please let us know! Contact Alesha Hill at 916-703-0297 or ahill@ucdavis.edu



Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/MINDInfantSib/>



Families needed for participation in new research study

Our investigators are using a new research method to study how factors in the environment may affect the brain as babies develop in the womb.

We would like to collect baby teeth, which your child may have already lost, or will lose in the next few years. A new technology will allow us to estimate a range of environmental substances that reached your child while *in utero*. We will do this by measuring the small amounts of these substances trapped in his/her baby teeth as they were forming.

If you decide to participate we will send you a mailer that you can use to send in any of your child's teeth that you are willing to give. If your child has not lost teeth yet, you can still participate — just hold on to the mailer and send teeth after he/she has lost them. We will send you a check for \$30 after we receive the mailer back from you.

We hope to hear from you soon. **You can call 916-703-0297 and Alesha Hill, the study coordinator, can help you with next steps or answer any questions.**

