

Autism Cry Research Study

Institution: Brown Center for Children, Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island

Research Criteria: Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Location: Mail-in participation, no geographic limitations

Principal Investigator: Stephen Sheinkopf, Ph.D.

Contact Information: Gabrielle DeFusco (401) 276-7858

email: WHAutism@CareNE.org

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to offer your family an opportunity to participate in a research study at the Brown Center for Children. Researchers at the Brown Center for Children are investigating signs of autism in early infancy. This study analyzes the sounds that babies make in the first 6 months of life. Researchers will analyze the cries of babies that parents have recorded on home videotapes.

For this study, we are looking for families who:

- have a child with an autism spectrum disorder;
- have videotapes of the child when they were young infants (less than 6 months of age) that include some episodes of crying or fussing; and
- are from *any* part of the country! Since videotapes of the child are being used, you do not need to live nearby the Brown Center for Children to participate.

Brown Center for Children staff will work with families by phone and mail. Our staff will assist families to identify appropriate videotapes and will provide families with postage-paid mailers for study materials. Family participation in this study will also involve the completion of questionnaires about the child that will take approximately one hour.

Thank you for taking the time to consider helping us with the study. It is our hope your participation in this study will increase our knowledge of early signs of autism spectrum disorders. Please call 401-276-7858, or email WHAutism@CareNE.org, if you are interested in the study or would like to learn more about participation. We will be happy to discuss this project with you in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Stephen Sheinkopf, Ph.D.
Brown Center for Children