The New England Center for Children®

Autism Education and Research

Learn More

AUTISM INFANT SIBLING STUDY

Ongoing Study Recruiting Participants

About

The New England Center for Children's research team, led by Dr. Rebecca MacDonald & Dr. Erin Michaud, is finding that infant siblings of children with autism may show symptoms **before** their first birthday.

Eligibility

- Newborn to 3-month-old infants
- Has a sibling diagnosed with autism

Participation

- Monthly in-home developmental screenings until 18 months old
- Coaching and support for parents of symptomatic infants

351-666-9642 | **infantstudyscheduling@necc.org**

Activities for Parents and Children
in the
First Year of Life

- Make eye contact with your baby; try smiling or making animated facial expressions

- While looking at your baby, imitate the sounds they make

- Talk to your baby and narrate what you are doing throughout the day (the more language they are exposed to, the better)

- Play peek-a-boo

- Play tickle games (e.g., creepy crawly)

- Sing songs (e.g., *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star; Itsy Bitsy Spider; Row, Row, Row, Your Boat; Patty Cake; Open Shut Them*)

- Look in a mirror together and make animated expressions

- Play with rattles and other toys that make sound (e.g., have your baby track the rattle from side to side, hold the rattle, bang the rattle)

- Blow bubbles and make popping sounds

- Point something out in the environment and talk about it (e.g., something up on a shelf, a picture on the fridge, an airplane in the sky)

- Model actions with toys, and then give them a turn to imitate what you did (e.g., pushing a car, banging a drum, feeding a baby doll, pretending to drink from a cup, wearing a hat, brushing hair, putting a figurine down a slide, placing a block in a bucket, making a figurine/animal hop, flying an airplane)

- Make exclamations when something unexpected happens (e.g., "uh-oh" when you drop something, "oh no" when the tower of blocks falls)

- Allow your child to make choices (e.g., toys, mealtimes, snacks)

- Model language (e.g., water, help) when you know what your child wants or needs

- Give directions to your child (e.g., give me a high five, blow a kiss, get your shoes so we can go play outside, go to the table to have a snack)

- Play a game of chase