

Message from the Director

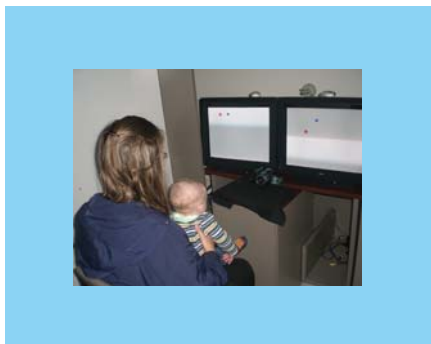
I am interested in early social perceptual development and early social cognitive development.



Our social interactions with others depend on our ability to perceive social information through eye gaze, facial expressions, body language and verbal tone (social perception). Then we have to make sense of it to understand the thoughts, feelings and mental states the others are conveying (social cognition).

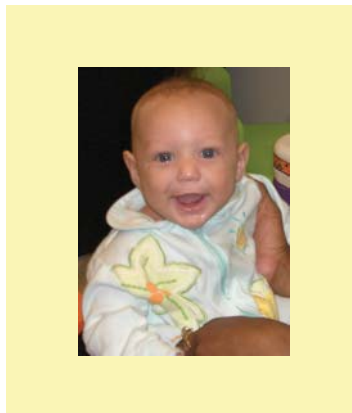
It is in the development of these earliest skills that people with autism start to show differences.

A better understanding of these differences will help us in our efforts to solve the puzzle of autism.



Early Autism Study

- We are studying babies as they are learning their earliest social skills, especially the ability to understand body language and facial expressions. A large part of this comes naturally to most babies. Even as newborns, they find faces fascinating.
- The first group of babies have no autism in their family history. The second group have a sister or brother with autism.
- We record each infant's interest in faces, eye movements, social interaction and animation at the ages of 3, 6, 9, and 12 months. We use an eye tracker, video recorder and camera.
- Developmental testing is done at ages 2 and 3.



An Important Message

The best way to increase our understanding of the Autism Spectrum Disorder is through research.

What's the most limiting factor in research? Not money... not equipment... not time...

It's PEOPLE!

People like you! Right now we really want to see infants who could come in for at least 4 visits over their first year of life. We especially need babies who have a brother or sister who already has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Please call right now to volunteer!

905) 525-9140 ext 26032

