



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS  
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON  
*A part of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston*



The Center for Human  
Development Research

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences



# RESEARCH STUDY ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

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We are conducting a **research study on the attention and behavior** of individuals who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) such as **Autism, PDD-NOS, and Asperger's**.

## Your child may be eligible if he/she:

- 1) Is **diagnosed with or suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder**,
- 2) Is **7 – 12 years old**, and
- 3) Has an **IQ of 50 - 140**

## Your child cannot participate if he/she has:

- 1) Serious neurological, sensory, or motor disorders,
- 2) Down Syndrome, Fragile X, or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, or
- 3) Tourette's Syndrome, Bipolar Disorder, or Schizophrenia

**Phase 1-Psychological Screening:** In the first phase, research participants will undergo and receive:

- 1) a **free psychological evaluation** (IQ, adaptive behavior, language, achievement, motor, diagnostic testing for Autism, Asperger's, PDD-NOS, and ADHD) requiring 2 visits, total time 6-8 hours,
- 2) a **report with results and recommendations**, and
- 3) **some compensation for research participant's time**

**Phase 2-Medication Treatment:** The second phase is optional for eligible candidates who participated in the first phase. The treatment study is a **six-week double-blind placebo-controlled study of the effects of stimulant medication treatment** (i.e., methylphenidate) in children who have an ASD and also have symptoms of ADHD.

Research participants will undergo and receive:

- 1) a **free brief physical screening** to ensure there are no contraindications to them receiving this treatment.
- 2) **six weekly, 2-hour visits** for computerized attention testing and medical evaluation.
- 3) a **report with the post-trial clinical recommendation for treatment**

Risks and benefits will be discussed with research participants and their parent prior to enrolling in the study.