



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

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

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or visit our website at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/chdr>

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.

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