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## **Attention** **Parents and Children**!

## **University of Delaware**

## **is conducting a**

**PLAY STUDY**

Investigator: Anjana Bhat, PT, PhD

## You and your child are invited to participate in a research study that examines the effects of three types of play on perceptuo-motor, social communication skills, and brain activation patterns of children.

**WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**

* Children between 5 and 15 years of age with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED?**

* This study will involve a total of 25 sessions (9 testing and 16 training sessions) with us.
* Study enrollment and behavioral testing and training can be completed at this time, remotely using video conferencing.
* Three testing sessions will be done in the first week, followed by eight weeks of training (2 expert sessions per week), three testing sessions after the training, and three follow-up sessions 2 months after the training. The test/training sessions can be delivered through online video-conferencing or face-to-face (F2F) testing in-lab or at-home. You will be provided supplies at home and will be asked to practice 1 extra session per week, which will be additional 8 training sessions completed on your own.
* Each testing session lasts approximately 1-1.5 hours and training sessions last 45 min-1 hour.
* Prior to the testing, you will meet with us for a 1-hour debriefing session via video conferencing to understand your role during the testing. Prior to training visits, you will meet with us for a 30-minute debriefing session to understand your roles during training sessions via video conferencing.
  + - Prior to study entry, you will need to complete a screening process and provide a letter confirming your child’s diagnosis.
    - During the testing sessions we examine your child’s motor and social communication skills during various games involving social interactions, balancing, jumping, skipping, etc., object play, and copying games.
    - During certain tests your child will participate in movement games like drumming, marching, swaying, and decision making. Participants who complete F2F testing will wear a cap with sensors to pick up brain activity as well as sensors on his/her arms, feet, and/or back using elastic bands during the drumming, marching, swaying, and decision making tasks.
* During training, the play group will engage in various music, dance, and yoga activities, the move group will engage in exercises focused on stretching, strengthening, and improving endurance and the create group will engage in story telling/reading and fine motor activities involving building and art-craft activities.
* You will also fill out multiple questionnaires to obtain motor and social measures of your child’s development. The visits will be videotaped so that we may score your child’s responses later. We will also mail you a wrist band home with you to record your child’s movements. Your child will be asked to wear the band over a 1-week period.
* We will mail you a $100 gift card in total upon completion all testing and the majority of training sessions with us (12 out of 16 expert sessions) after the follow-up test.

You can help by volunteering for our study. Please call the Move to Learn (M2L) Lab at 1-302-831-7608 or email to [abhat@udel.edu](mailto:abhat@udel.edu)

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