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LETTER OF INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Project Title: Parent-Mediated Intervention for the Behaviour and Development of Infants at Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders

We, Amanda Hendry and Olivia Ng (M.A. candidates in the Centre for Applied Disability Studies at Brock University), invite you to participate in a research project entitled Parent-Mediated Intervention for the Behaviour and Development of Infants at Risk for Autism Disorders.

The purpose of this research project is to evaluate a parent-training program for parents of infants at-risk for ASD where the parents have concerns about the infant's development or behaviour. For this study, the infants at-risk for ASD will be under 2 years old and have an older sibling independently diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Working with the parents, we will identify problem areas and train parents on strategies that may improve areas of concern. For example, if the infant is not making eye contact with the parents, we will show the parents how to promote eye contact. It is our goal to make recommendations that are easy to implement within naturally-occurring parent-child interactions.

This research has the potential to benefit your infant specifically by improving your ability to promote appropriate behaviours and development. Ultimately, we hope that this research will lead to the development of a broad-scale, parent-training intervention program that can be implemented with any infants showing early signs of autism. This is a single-site project, meaning that no other agencies or universities are involved in this project.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Brock University Research Ethics Officer (905 688-5550 ext 3035, reb@brocku.ca)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Principle Student Investigators at (647) 350-3684, or Rebecca Ward, bward@brocku.ca (905) 688-5550 Ext. 5778.

Thank you,

Principle Student Investigators

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PS - If your family is not appropriate for this research project, please feel free to pass this information on to other families you know who do have infant siblings potentially at-risk for ASD.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through Brock University's Research Ethics Board (file # 10-021-WARD)