



## **Drexel University**

### **Recruiting Volunteers for a Research Study**

A study to evaluate the effects of removing television and other screen media viewing from young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

#### **Research Objectives\***

Children with an autism spectrum diagnosis frequently view high amounts of television and other screen media. Television viewing interferes with parent-child interactions and a child's toy play. These factors are important in promoting positive development. Higher levels of television viewing are associated with developmental problems in areas of language, cognitive, and social development, as well as behavioral difficulties. This study will look at developmental progress in young children with ASD when their ESM viewing is removed. Genetic impact will also be considered.

Each child will be enrolled in the study for 6 months. During that time, the child will have genetic testing, 2 visits at Drexel for child assessment, and weekly visits in your home to support the screen-free environment, suggest alternate activities that involve social interaction and to trouble shoot any problems related to screen reduction.

#### **Information for Research Subjects Eligibility**

Your child can participate in this study if he or she is 18 months to 42 months of age, has minimal functional language, has a diagnosis of ASD, without other significant genetic or serious medical problems, was not premature, watches an average of 2 or more hours of TV or other screens daily, and lives in one household. If your child meets the above criteria and you would be interested in a screen removal trial in your child, contact us using the information provided below.

#### **Remuneration**

You will receive a \$50 gift card to be disbursed at the 3 month screen-free home support visit, and a \$50 gift card to be disbursed at the 6 month AJ Drexel Autism Institute evaluation for a total of \$100 for participating in the research.

#### **Location of the research and person to contact for further information**

This research is approved by the Institutional review board. If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Karen F. Heffler, MD, 215-816-5687, or e-mail [ASD-ESMStudy@DrexelMed.edu](mailto:ASD-ESMStudy@DrexelMed.edu). Study assessments will be performed at the AJ Drexel Autism Institute, 3020 Market St #560, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

This research is conducted by a researcher who is a member of Drexel University or Drexel University College of Medicine.

<p>APPROVED Human Research Protection Protocol # <u>1611004940-A001</u> Approval Date: <u>04/26/2017</u> Expiration Date: <u>03/22/2018</u></p>
---