

Group *Social ABCs*: Early Intervention for Toddlers with Suspected ASD



Local Principal Investigator:

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Contact Information:

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What is this study about?

We are studying an early intervention program for toddlers who show signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to see if it is effective. This program, called the *Social ABCs*, teaches caregivers strategies to improve their toddler's language and social abilities. When studied previously, this program helped toddlers improve speech and social smiling. In the current study, we are studying a shortened, group version of the *Social ABCs* to see if it works. In this version, parents will learn the strategies of the intervention through a combination of group workshops and individual practice sessions over a six-week period.

Who can participate?

- Caregivers and their toddlers aged 12-36 months who have been assessed by a Holland Bloorview clinician and who show early signs of ASD.

What's involved?

- You will come to Holland Bloorview to learn about the study and fill out some questionnaires. We will take a video of you and your child playing at this visit.
- You will attend an informational workshop once a week for five weeks with other parents of toddlers showing similar early signs of ASD.
- During these same weeks, you and your toddler will attend weekly clinic-based practice sessions with the *Social ABCs* coach for six weeks, where you will be coached on strategies of the *Social ABCs* intervention. During these visits, we will videotape you and your child playing together.
- You will be reimbursed for transit and parking expenses and receive a copy of the *Social ABCs* manual.

What are the risks and benefits?

- This program requires a consistent time commitment.
- Other parents of toddlers who may be like your child will participate in group-based discussions with you.
- Children may improve their abilities to use their voice for communicating and/or may smile more with caregivers.
- Results from this study may inform future directions of early intervention of ASD treatment

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