

Participate in Research

Understanding interactions between parents and non-verbal children during feeding



Principal Investigator:

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Do you have trouble understanding your child's feeding needs?

Consider participating in our research study to understand the interactions between parents and non-verbal children during feeding.

What is this study about?

Feeding is a complex experience for children with disabilities. This study aims to understand the quality of interactions between non-verbal children and their parents and during feeding. This will help us provide better nutritional care for these children.

Who can participate?

We are looking for participants who:

- Have limited ability to verbally express hunger, thirst, feeling full, or food preferences,
- Are between 3 and 19 years old,
- Are admitted to Holland Bloorview's inpatient unit for at least 5 weeks,
- Are independently ventilating,
- Are safe to consume food orally throughout the study period,
- Are able to tolerate wearing a brain sensing cap during meal time.

What's involved?

- 1x Onboarding session (1 hour) and 4x Meal sessions (2 hours) over 5 weeks at Holland Bloorview.
- Onboarding session: We will ask you questions about your background and take body measurements of your child. We will also collect hair samples from you and your child.
- Meal sessions: You will be asked to identify 4 mealtimes (lunch or dinner) over 5 weeks when it is convenient for you.
 - At nights before each meal session, your child will be asked to wear a watch to monitor their sleep quality.
 - In the morning, your child will be asked to spit into a tube to collect saliva samples, and wear a mask to measure their energy levels.
 - During meal time, we will record video and brain activity from you and your child and measure your child's dietary intake.

Potential benefits?

You will not benefit directly by participating, but you will help us develop a device to monitor feeding quality for non-verbal children. This may help us provide better nutritional care for children with disabilities.

Potential risks?

You may get tired during the sessions. You will be able to take breaks and rest if that happens.

Participants will receive a gift card to thank them for their time.