

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

I am a researcher and speech therapist in the Communicative Disorders Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A lot of my work focuses on communication skills at the infant-level. I am writing this letter because I am looking for children who are 2-12 months in chronological age or older children or adults scoring at an equivalent skill level in communication or developmental age to participate in a study.

The purpose of my study is to try out and improve a test for early communication skills called the **Infant Social and Communication Behavior Scales (ISCBS)** and a screener called the **Communication in Infancy and Social Screener (CISS)**. I am designing this test as a way to measure early communication for children/adults with severe impairments. In order to do this, the ISCBS and CISS need to be used to test typically developing infants, too, so that I could see a pattern in normally developing communication skills.

This study will take two approximately 1 hour visits. The first visit will consist of a trained speech-pathology student asking you questions about your child/legal ward's interests, communication skills, and general development. The student also will show your child/legal ward some different toys (e.g., rattles, books) and ask you to play some simple social games with them. The student will leave several short checklists with you to complete when you have time. During the second visit, the student will ask you more questions about your child/legal ward's development and do another play activity that involves showing him/her some objects and toys.

A video will be made of your child/legal ward playing with the different toys. You would be invited to sit in the room with your child/legal ward and participate with the presentation of toys, if you would like. You could also advise the researchers on the best ways to make your child/legal ward more comfortable in this situation and tell us when he/she might need a break.

I understand this is not a small request. However, you will be paid a modest hourly amount (\$9/hour) for your time or your child/legal ward's time. In addition, you will be offered a DVD copy of your child/legal ward's video highlights to keep for your general use. All information that you give us, including names, will be treated with care and confidentiality. I understand and respect your family's right to privacy and will take many precautions to make sure that these rights are not violated. You have the right to quit at any time without an explanation.

I have been conducting research and providing speech therapy services for children with communication needs for the past twenty years. This research has been reviewed by a university panel devoted to checking that family, children and adult's rights are protected in research studies.



If you have a child/legal ward that is 2-12 months in chronological age or an older child or adult scoring at an equivalent skill level in communication or developmental age, I hope that you will return the enclosed reply letter asking for more information about this study (the green form) or contact me by phone or email. Also, if you know of other families who might be interested in participating, please feel free to pass this letter along.

Thank you very much for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Cress, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR

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Reply Letter

Dear Dr. Cress:

I would like more information about your study on infant communication. I understand that this letter does NOT obligate me to include my child/legal ward. I can still refuse.

Please print.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Good times to reach me: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Signed: _____

Parent or Legal Guardian

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