RAISE Study: Rural Autism Individuals – Supporting Expression

Improving Language Comprehension via Gestures in Rural Montana Children with Language Impairment and/or Autism

We can come to your home for the study!

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?
→ We study how specific types of gestures can support comprehension of language in hearing children ages 4-18 with:
  ♦ Receptive language disorder, or
  ♦ Autism Spectrum Disorders, or
  ♦ Normal Development (siblings, cousins, friends, & classmates)
→ We hope to understand how individuals and families can effectively use gestures to support oral (verbal) communication with their children.
→ We are especially reaching out to participants in rural communities.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS DO DURING THE RAISE STUDY?
→ We can come to your home for doing the following assessments. (Or you may come to our lab at MSU).
→ We will administer to participants: 3 standardized tests of language and 3 tests of cognition in books, and 5 experimental tasks on computer.
→ These assessments may take 2-3 hours in total to complete. We may visit you for a shorter time, 2-3 times.
→ We will also ask the primary caregiver to fill out 4 questionnaires about the participant’s language and social development, and family status. This may take ~30-60 minutes.

This study is being done for research purposes only.

Example of a picture for participant

Example of a gesture/sign for “different”
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO YOU?

→ There are no direct benefits to you or the participant from this research.
→ However, we will provide:
  ♦ report of participant’s results, and what they mean, for caregivers. This report can be shared with participant’s Speech and Language Pathologist and/or other Clinicians/Therapists;
  ♦ also, report about findings from established research about how using gestures can help with everyday communication;
  ♦ and one $90 gift card to Amazon.com per participant.

Our Team at Montana State University (and our expertise):
♦ Dr. Sarah Pennington (dyslexia, education, and eye tracking)
♦ Dr. Nadya Modyanova (autism and language impairment in children)
♦ Dr. Kalli Decker (rural services and gestures)
♦ George Horowitz (Research Lab Manager)
♦ Gloria Baldevia (Undergraduate Researcher)

WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I’M INTERESTED in the RAISE Study?

www.montana.edu/perl/projects.html
Language-research@montana.edu
Nadya at (406) 848-1535 (text/voicemail) and/or
George at (406) 668-3467 and/or
Gloria at (406) 763-6382

Funded in part by Montana INBRE which stands for “IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence”, and is supported by NIH (National Institutes of Health).

Our trained researchers can visit you at your home for the study! (or you can visit us at MSU).

Note about COVID-19/Flu/RSV:
→ Our researchers wear transparent masks for all in-person interactions.
→ Prior to in-person visits, researchers, participants, and caregivers will fill out a short form about any known exposure to any virus or any symptoms of illness.
→ Appointments may be rescheduled in case of recent/current exposure or illness.

Montana State University IRB Protocol #: 2022-73-NM092419-FCR