WHY IS THE EARLI STUDY IMPORTANT?

Very little is known about what causes autism. The EARLI Study will help us understand why some children develop autism. It will identify possible causes, which could be genetic, environmental, or a combination of both.

It is the largest study of its kind, involving families with greater risk for having a child with autism and collecting extensive information over several years.

Other research shows that signs of autism can be seen as early as 12 months of age, so the EARLI Study will focus on exposures and events that occur during pregnancy and early childhood.

NORTHEAST MARYLAND

To be eligible, families must live in Baltimore City or the Maryland counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's, or within a 2-hour drive of Baltimore City.

EARLI
Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation

For more information, contact us:

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JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Kennedy Krieger Institute

EARLI

Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation

Finding Clues About Autism Beginning in Pregnancy

ABOUT THE EARLI STUDY

The Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation (EARLI) Study is a national research study of risk factors for having another child with autism in families already affected by the disorder.

Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, the EARLI Study will enroll mothers of children with autism as early as possible in a new pregnancy. Information will be collected regularly from the mother during the study, and the new child will receive free developmental assessments until 3 years of age.

The EARLI Study will take place at four research sites across the country and will involve multiple collaborative institutions:

SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA

1) Drexel University
   Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

NORTHEAST MARYLAND

2) Johns Hopkins University
   Kennedy Krieger Institute

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

3) Kaiser Permanente Northern California
   Division of Research

4) University of California, Davis
   The MIND Institute

WHO CAN BE IN THE STUDY?

Biological mothers of a child with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis who…

…live within the defined geographic area of, or specified distance from, an EARLI Study site and…

…are currently no more than 28 weeks pregnant, or may become pregnant in the future.

WHAT DO FAMILIES GET OUT OF EARLI STUDY PARTICIPATION?

Children born into the study will be evaluated by trained professionals for their developmental progress through their third birthday.

Families will be updated on local resources and have ready access to information from EARLI about study findings and other developments related to autism.

Families will be compensated for their time spent contributing to the EARLI Study, as well as reimbursed for travel expenses when visits to a study clinic are necessary.

WHAT WILL FAMILIES BE ASKED TO DO?

- Complete questionnaires and interviews about medical history, diet, environment, health, and child development.
- Grant permission for study staff to obtain copies of medical records.
- Provide biological samples such as blood, hair, urine, and breast milk (if breastfeeding).
- Take part in child developmental assessments with study staff.
- Plan to participate in the study for its duration (about 3.5 years).

EARLI