

## Watching the Brain Work In Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder

Call (801) 422-2183 or email [brains@byu.edu](mailto:brains@byu.edu)



The BYU AutismConnect project is conducting ground-breaking research in children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, looking how the brain is connected. The project consists of language and cognitive testing in addition to MRI scans that track the working brain while children watch a cool movie of shapes and sounds. We have an expert team to help train children for what to expect and how to manage the MRI scan.

### Who is eligible

- Any children with an autism spectrum disorder ages 8-17
- *Especially children with limited language ability* (Speech that primarily consists of single words or signs (or no speech), or simple 2-3 word phrases)
- No metal implants, braces, or permanent retainers

### What will happen

- Call or email if you may be interested in participating
- We will talk to you on the phone about whether your child may be a good candidate for an MRI scan (whether you think it's good for your child, and whether it might work for us)
- We will invite potentially good candidates to BYU for language and cognitive testing that takes about 90 minutes. During this time a parent will fill out surveys that take about 60 minutes.
- We will send you a training video (on YouTube) to help your child get used to what will happen
- We will invite you for as many visits to the scanner as necessary to help your child see the scanner and practice lying still
- We will do an MRI brain scan in one or two sessions that involves your child lying still while the machine takes pictures of the brain. For part of the time your child will be watching a cool video of shapes and sounds created just for such situations. You may be in the scan room holding your child's leg/hand and comforting them. We have other members of our team who will also be helping to encourage and comfort.


### What you will receive

- We will provide results from the language and cognitive testing and also a picture of your child's brain.
- These results will be helpful for improving understanding of how the brain works in children with autism.

### Important things to know

- All data are kept completely confidential. Every child is assigned an ID number that is used for all records.
- MRI is completely safe for people who do not have metal implants, braces, or permanent retainers. There is no radiation involved.

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**BYU AUTISMCONNECT**

	Institutional Review Board	
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