



Lab E-Newsletter

Research in Early Autism Detection and Intervention

READi or Not...Here we come!

During 2013, the READi Lab provided 15 free training workshops for community birth-to-three providers in 7 locations across WA State. The purpose of these workshops is to improve early identification and early intervention for children with autism or suspected autism. We trained **88** providers on the **STAT**, a play-based autism screening tool for toddlers (that you have probably seen us use in the lab!). And **222** providers have received training in the use of **RIT**, a behaviorally-based intervention focused on improving children's imitation.



In 2014, we expect to conduct trainings in 6 new sites, mostly in central and eastern WA. We will also be providing **RIT training for parents**, so let us know if you're interested!

What is Reciprocal Imitation Training?

Reciprocal Imitation Training (RIT) is an ABA-based intervention that was developed specifically for young children with ASD. It has a strong evidence base and has been associated with significant improvements in children's social interactions, joint attention, and communication.



RIT is easy to implement and can be used by parents, siblings, and other caregivers. RIT is conducted in a playful context, and involves imitating the child's actions, modeling and prompting new behaviors, and modeling language by labeling the child's actions. We have been conducting RIT training workshops for birth-to-three providers through our **ASAP! Program**, and will soon be looking for parents who are interested in learning this intervention.

Upcoming Research Projects

We have several new research projects that will be starting up soon (see below). If you would like more information, or are interested in participating, please contact us at READiLab@uw.edu.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?	AGE OF CHILD?	WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?
Infant siblings of children <u>with</u> ASD and Infant siblings of children <u>without</u> ASD	1 month old	Whether infant learning at 1 month predicts social behavior at 3 months
Children who received a recent diagnostic evaluation for ASD or developmental delay	24-39 months old	The effectiveness of a new, streamlined assessment for ASD
<u>Parents</u> of young children with ASD	18-48 months old	Different methods for teaching parents how to use a play-based intervention (RIT) with their children

In the Spotlight:

Welcome to **Lizzy Karp**, a first-year graduate student of Dr. Stone's in the UW child clinical psychology program. Lizzy is a Los Angeles native who majored in psychology and theater at Skidmore College. After college, she worked in Dr. Connie Kasari's research lab at UCLA, where she taught joint attention skills to young children at risk for developing ASD. She has been a wonderful addition to the READi Lab!



Questions? Please contact us at READiLab@uw.edu or 206-616-7358.