



Lab E-Newsletter

Research in Early Autism Detection and Intervention

Latest news from the READi Lab

Dr. Stone Invited to Conference in Japan

Last month Wendy was an invited speaker at a conference in Japan focusing on how *computational behavioral science* can be used to increase our understanding of autism.



Our lab is collaborating with colleagues at Georgia Tech

University to examine the use of an eyeglasses-mounted camcorder to measure the direction of infants' eye gaze during social interactions. We hope that these glasses will provide more accurate data than the methods we are currently using, and will eventually facilitate the early detection of autism.



Can you tell who's wearing the video glasses in this photo? See below for the correct answer!

READi Lab is starting two new studies!

We will be looking for families to participate in two new READi lab studies. One study will investigate how infants learn while they sleep; for this study, we will be recruiting **one-month-old infants**, whether or not they have an older sibling with autism.

The second study will examine a streamlined diagnostic assessment for autism designed for use in community settings; for this study, we will be recruiting **children between the ages of 24 and 39 months** who are either scheduled for a diagnostic evaluation or for whom there are developmental concerns. Stay tuned for more information about each project!

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



Current Research Findings:

What do early behavioral differences mean?

Two recently published studies conducted by Wendy Stone while at Vanderbilt suggest that early behavioral differences between groups of infant siblings of children with autism (high-risk infants) and infant siblings of children with no family history of autism (low-risk infants) are not necessarily predictive of later autism symptoms or diagnosis.

One study found **higher rates of repetitive behaviors** and the other found **lower rates of social smiling** among high-risk infants at about 15 months of age, relative to low-risk infants. However, a diagnostic evaluation conducted 1 1/2 years later indicated that the high-risk children who received a diagnosis of autism *did not differ* from the high-risk children without an autism diagnosis on these early behaviors.



These results suggest that some of the early behavioral differences seen in high-risk infants relative to low-risk infants may reflect their increased genetic liability for autism or autism features, but do not necessarily predict a future autism diagnosis. Both studies were published in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* in 2013.

In the Spotlight:

Congratulations to **Colleen Harker**, graduate student in child clinical psychology, who recently received a grant from *The Arc of Washington Trust Fund*! She will work with **Parent 2 Parent**, a community support and information resource, to evaluate the effectiveness of their services across different ethnic groups.



A: Sarah, on the left. (Yes, those really are Lisa's regular glasses.)