



RESEARCH RUNDOWN

Longitudinal Evaluation of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

We are examining the developmental trajectories of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders who have graduated from St.Amant's Autism Early Learning and School-Age Learning programs by measuring progress in several domains at regular intervals over a 5-year period.

What is this research about?

We are working on a 5-year longitudinal study to learn about the developmental trajectories of children following intensive behavioural intervention. We will be working with 50 children with Autism Spectrum Disorders who have completed St.Amant's Autism Early Learning and School-Age Learning Programs. Direct child assessments and parent and teacher questionnaires are being administered annually to measure children's autism symptoms and development in social, behavioural, and academic areas.

What will the researchers do?

We are studying children with Autism Spectrum Disorders who have graduated from St.Amant's Autism Early Learning and School-Age Learning programs. We will collect information through a combination of standardized child assessments, parent questionnaires, and with parental permission, teacher questionnaires and information from the St.Amant Autism Early Learning and School-Age Learning programs. Most information will be collected annually and some biennially, over a period of up to 5 years.

What the researchers hope to find?

We wish to learn more about how these children are continuing to develop in various areas over a 5-year period after they have completed the programs. These areas include communication, socialization, adaptive behaviours, academic skills, and cognitive development. We are interested in how development in these areas relate to learning environments at school and home, and diagnostic characteristics of the child.

What you need to know:

We are tracking the long-term progress of graduates from St.Amant's Autism Early Learning and School-Age Learning Programs. As longitudinal evaluation of intensive behavioural intervention is rare, this study should yield new knowledge that could be used to improve early interventions in the future.

Why is it important?

This project is important because the results will help us better understand the long-term development of children after early intervention and may help to improve early intervention programs in the future.

Researchers

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Additional Resources

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To find out more about St. Amant's Autism Services visit:
<http://stamant.ca/programs/autism-services/>

At the time of writing this project was ongoing, version date: April, 2014. Latest versions are available at:
<http://stamant.ca/research/our-research/project-summaries/>