

**YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH REGARDING
THE ASSOCIATION AMONG IMITATION, SOCIAL, AND MOTOR DEFICITS IN
INDIVIDUALS WITH ASD**

Purpose

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) experience both social and motor deficits, including a difficulty in imitating others. Research has found that imitation plays a role in both social and motor development. The purpose of this research is to investigate the association among imitation, social, and motor deficits in individuals with ASD and explore how the results may differ between male participants and female participants.

About the Researcher

The principal researcher is a PhD candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University who is conducting this research for her PhD dissertation. The research advisors, Dr. P. Fletcher and Dr. P. Bryden are professors in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

Participants

Females and males ages 4 to 18 years that have been formally diagnosed with ASD by a medical professional along with their primary caregivers of these individuals will be recruited for this study.

Procedure

First, the individual with ASD will be asked to complete three tasks:

1. The first will require that the youth tap a target on a tablet [**15 minutes**].
2. The second will ask the youth to complete a series of motor tasks associated with balance, manual dexterity, and catching and aiming [**20 to 40 minutes**].
3. The third and final task is a motor imitation task, in which the youth will be asked to imitate the researcher in a series of movements [**10 to 15 minutes**].

While the youth is completing the tools discussed above, the primary caregiver will be asked to complete the following:

1. A background questionnaire [**10 minutes**].
2. Social Reciprocity Scale (SRS-2). The purpose of this questionnaire is to assess social awareness, social cognition, social communication, social motivation, and restricted interests and repetitive behaviours in youth with ASD. SRS-2 consists of 65 items [**15 to 20 minutes**].

On a different date, the caregiver will be asked to complete the following:

1. A one-on-one semi structured interview. The purpose of this interview is to explore the caregiver's perceptions regarding his/her child's social and motor skills [**60-90 minutes**].

Interested in Participating?

If you feel that you are suitable participant for this study, please contact Brianne Redquest at redq9570@mylaurier.ca.

REB tracking number:5289