Early Autism and Social Communication Study

Wanted:
Caregivers & their children 1– to-4 years and 11 months who are suspected of (or diagnosed with) ASD or a social communication disorder. The study will help researchers understand the effectiveness of parent-mediated, early autism intervention program on social and communication skills.

At the beginning and end of the study we will:

• (a) learn about the child’s skills through caregiver interview and assessments
• (b) collect a video of the caregiver and child interacting with each other.

Group Assignment:

• Families will be assigned by chance (like flipping a coin) to an intervention or control group (control group will have opportunity to receive intervention following their participation)

The Intervention:

• Families will receive weekly, 90 minute sessions with a therapist (speech-language pathologists or behavior specialist) for 12 weeks.
• Therapists will coach the caregiver on social communication strategies to use when interacting and playing with their child.
• Caregivers will learn to use social communication strategies when interacting with their child.

Cost: There is no charge

Benefits
Families may benefit by receiving 12-weeks of parent-mediated ASD specific intervention at no charge

Risks
All risks for this research are the same as those related to the treatment without research.

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Approval: This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at The University of Texas (UT) Dallas.