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Audiovisual Speech Perception in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Study Description

This study aims to determine whether children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) *perceive* and *process* audiovisual speech differently from their typically developing (TD) peers. Videos of speaking human and computer animated faces paired with a non-invasive method to track eye movements will be used to determine how affected children use a speaker's face as part of their perceptual processing of speech. Verbal children will be asked to report what the speaker said. Non-verbal children will engage in a familiarization procedure, which involves pressing a button to indicate what they heard the speaker say. We will look at the findings in relation to standard language and cognitive assessments. This study has important practical implication for the design of targeted interventions for verbal and non-verbal children with ASD.

Participants will be asked to watch movies of speaking faces and to complete standard cognitive, language and social tasks. In addition, parents will be interviewed about their child's developmental history. Participation can be completed in one 3- to 4-hour session at the Haskins Child Language Studies laboratory at 300 George Street, New Haven, CT. Participants will receive \$10.00 per hour for their participation, a brief research report summarizing the assessment, and travel and parking costs.

For further contact or study information, or to register for this research study online, **please visit our website at <http://www.haskins.yale.edu/cls.html>** or at http://www.haskins.yale.edu/newsrelease/HNR_Irwin01.html. In addition, we can be reached directly by **phone at (203) 865-6163, x337 or x245.**