

Do you have a child with autism and a baby under 9 months old?

Researchers at UMass Chan Medical School are interested in learning more about the language and social communication skills of baby siblings of children with ASD.

The goal of the PETAL Study is to guide families on how to support and promote their baby's language development. Participation involves home visits and support via Zoom until your baby turns 2 years old:

Home Visits (six visits, around 2 hours each)

- Parent completes questionnaires.
- Parent and Baby are videotaped while they play together.
- Baby completes assessments of language and cognitive skills at each visit, and an additional assessment for characteristics of autism at 2 years old.
- Baby briefly wears an elastic cap that monitors brain activity (a technique called EEG).
- Baby wears an audio recording device that captures their language environment for one day.

Home visits begin when your baby is 6-9 months old and continue until 2 years old.

Compensation of \$40 is provided for each visit. You will also receive activity cards, toys, and books that are developmentally appropriate for your baby at each visit.

Virtual Language Support (12 sessions, 1 hour each)

- Parent participates in social and communication coaching sessions aimed at improving their baby's social communication, engagement, and play skills.
- Parent is guided through strategies to support their baby's development.

Virtual language support begins when your baby is 9-15 months old and occurs weekly (via Zoom) for at least three months.



Promoting Early Intervention Timing and Attention to Language

For more information, please contact (774) 479-6025, email petalstudy@umassmed.edu, or use the QR code to access our contact form.

