

Are you interested in doing something exciting with your baby?

Learn more about the Baby Brain Imaging Study!

Researchers at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School are interested in learning more about baby's brain development.

We are interested in understanding how the baby's social brain develops. We would like to study how the natural hormones of the brain and experiences early in life impact this development. We are looking for healthy first-time mothers that are about to give birth or have a healthy baby under 4 months of age.

Outline

The study will take place at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center within the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

The study will consist of two to three visits during the first twelve months of your baby's life.

First Visit *(when baby is approximately 4 months old)*

- Mom will complete questionnaires.
- Saliva samples will be collected from mom and baby to measure a naturally occurring hormone called oxytocin.
- Mom and baby will be videotaped while they play and interact, and while they are separated from each other.
- During play, mom and baby will wear elastic caps that monitor brain activity (functional near-infrared spectroscopy [fNIRS]).
- Mom will be audio recorded while speaking and reading to baby.

Second Visit *(when baby is approximately 6 months old)*

- Mom will complete questionnaires.
- Saliva samples will be collected from mom and baby to measure a naturally occurring hormone called oxytocin.
- Mom and baby will be videotaped while they play and interact.
- During play, mom and baby will wear elastic caps that monitor brain activity (functional near-infrared spectroscopy [fNIRS]).
- During natural sleep, baby will complete a brain scan (functional magnetic resonance imaging [fMRI]) while audio clips from mom, unfamiliar adult, and familiar environment sounds are played.

Optional Third Visit *(when baby is approximately 12 months old)*

- Mom will complete questionnaires.
- Saliva samples will be collected from mom and baby to measure a naturally occurring hormone called oxytocin.
- Mom and baby will be videotaped while they play and interact, and while they are separated from each other.
- During play, mom and baby will wear elastic caps that monitor brain activity (functional near-infrared spectroscopy [fNIRS]).

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Compensation will be provided for each study visit.

Additionally, mothers will get to keep a copy of their baby's brain scan as well as pictures taken during participation.



TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CONTACT:

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