



## GOAL

The goal of our study of Girls with Autism  
OR Typical Development is to:

**P**romote -  
**U**nderstand -  
**B**uild -  
**E**nrich -  
**R**espect &  
**T**rack  
**Y**outh



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## MISSION

The mission of the SENSE (Social Emotional NeuroScience Endocrinology) lab is to better understand the social and emotional functioning of youth and adults with autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders and to translate findings into meaningful approaches and interventions.

Understanding the Unique  
Psychological, Social and Physical  
Development of Girls with Autism  
or Typical Development Before,  
During and After Puberty

Research Study



## PUBERTAL DEVELOPMENT

Significant physical, psychological, hormonal and social changes occur during pubertal development. Adolescence may be uniquely challenging for girls especially those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

## PARTICIPANTS

We are seeking females enrolled at 6, 8, 10 and 12 years of age and followed annually over four years.

Participants include girls with confirmed or suspected:

- ASD: autism spectrum disorder
- TD: typical development
- ID: intellectual disability

## ASSESSMENTS

Participants will come to Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) for an annual visit which includes: 1) physical, 2) psychological and 3) social interaction protocol.

A diagnostic visit will occur during the first year to confirm or disconfirm ASD, TD or ID eligibility criteria.

After consent and assent, the following procedures will occur.

## ANNUAL VISIT PROCEDURES

- Physical exam & blood draw
- Brief psychological exam
- Social interaction and EEG

## AT HOME

- Saliva sampling for hormone levels
- Menstrual tracking

## POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATION

- Diagnostic confirmation
- Free annual psychological, psychiatric and physical exams
- Research letter of standardized measure results
- Earn up to \$100 per year (\$400 total)
- Families living 100 miles away or more may be eligible for reimbursement of travel and accommodations
- Annual symposia for families

## POTENTIAL CHALLENGES TO PARTICIPATION

- Time and effort to come to VUMC for annual visits
- Keep research team up to date on significant development and living changes (e.g., address)

## COMMITMENT

This is a longitudinal study which means we are committed to following your child over an important developmental period.

Similarly, if you choose to participate in the study, we ask that you commit to actively engaging with us all four years.

While it is your right to discontinue at any time, we ask that if you no longer wish to participate, to inform us of your decision.

## PARTNERSHIP

The success of the program requires a partnership between Dr. Corbett's SENSE team and participants' families.

We aim to be available to you for questions and concerns relevant to the focus of the study; namely, adolescence, puberty and mental health. If developmental needs arise, our multidisciplinary team will do our best to provide support.

Thank you for considering being a part of this important study.

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