FAQ

What if we decide to discontinue our participation in the study?

Your child's participation in this study is completely voluntary. You have the right to withdraw your child from this study at any time. Your choice of whether or not to have your child participate will not affect your current or future dealings with Children's Hospital Boston.

Why would I be taken off the study early?

Sometimes we will exclude your child from the study based on our behavioral measures or the results of our questionnaires. Your child may also be taken off the study if you/your child are unable to attend the study visits required or the Principal Investigator feels it is in the best interest of you/ your child to be taken off this study.

Do people conducting the study have experience working with children?

The Gaab Lab team has substantial experience with functional and structural MRI in children and adults. To date, we have examined hundreds of children between the ages of 4 and 12 using fMRI. All members on the team have extensive backgrounds in Education and Psychology and years of experience of working with children.

What will happen to information obtained during this study?

All information obtained for the purpose of this study will be kept confidential in accordance with strict federal and Institutional guidelines. Reports published as a result of the study will not include any identifying information about your child and will not be traceable to him or her.

What are the risks of fMRI scanning?

fMRI stands for functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging. For most people fMRI is a very safe procedure, but because the MRI chamber is basically a huge magnet, some individuals (e.g., those who have metal in their body) should not have an fMRI scan. The MRI scanner can be a little noisy but your child will be provided with earplugs to reduce the noise heard from the scanner.

About Us

We are researchers at Boston Children's Hospital who study reading and language development. Our main goal is to identify early markers of developmental dyslexia in pre-reading children.

Neuroimaging studies have revealed brain alterations in school-age children and adults with a diagnosis of developmental dyslexia. We are currently investigating how early these brain differences appear, how they develop over time and whether they can be used to identify children who are at risk for dyslexia in pre-school or even infancy. Our studies are funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Harvard Catalyst program and the William Hearst Fund.

We believe that in the future this research will help identify children at risk for dyslexia early on. This will allow for effective intervention even before they start school. **Without the involvement of families like you, this essential research would not be possible. If your children meet the criteria, please consider participating in one our studies.**

GAAB LAB

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Harvard Medical School

GAAB LAB

Promoting Healthy Development through Innovative Cognitive Neuroscience Research

Do you have an infant or a child 4 months to 6 years old?

Are you interested in learning more about your child's development?

Would you like to help develop methods of early dyslexia diagnosis?

A New NIH-Funded Longitudinal Research Study:

Looking at Infants and Children with Family History of Dyslexia

www.childrenshospital.org/research/gaablab

What to Expect: 4-6 year olds

Your child will be asked to come in for a total of two 3-hour sessions each year for 4 years.

Session 1: Your child's reading, language, and cognitive abilities will be measured using psychometric assessments.

Session 2: Your child's brain images will be obtained using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

You will receive an annual report of your child's performance on a variety of cognitive and educational assessments.

You will receive your child's brain images that will be reviewed by a trained radiologist.

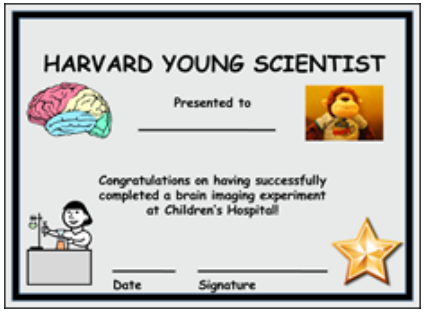
You will receive a gift card to your child's favorite bookstore.

Each session your child will get to choose a toy.

Your child will have a lot of fun playing games and being a young Harvard scientist.

You will help us develop methods of early identification of dyslexia.

You will help us learn more about the reading brain and advance development of more effective reading interventions.



What to Expect: Infants

You and your infant will participate in a one-time visit to our laboratory for a total of 2-3 hours.

Session Overview: We will measure your infant's early language and cognitive abilities through a standardized assessment. We will then take a picture of your baby's brain while he or she is naturally sleeping in our research environment.

You will receive a report of your infant's performance on the cognitive assessment, and you will get a picture of your child's brain images to take home. Your infant will receive a nice baby toy and a "Baby Scientist" onesie for participating.