



Purdue Infant Development Study

Introduction for Families



Thank you for your interest in the Infant Development Study at Purdue University! This document includes more information about what to expect during your participation in the project, building on information that the laboratory coordinator will relay to you via e-mail or phone. We will also talk you through each step of the study when you visit our laboratory for your first appointment. Of course, you are welcome to decline participation in any study component at any time. We are happy to answer questions before, during, and/or after your appointment.

Study Overview | The Infant Development Study aims to understand how children develop from infancy to preschool. We are particularly interested to learn how factors such as family, life experiences, and medical conditions (e.g. preterm birth, genetic disorders) might contribute to development. Our participants bring to the study a variety of unique abilities, experiences, and needs. We love watching them grow throughout their participation in the study!

Study Activities | Each year, we ask participants to complete four project activities, which often occur within one week of each other. We are sure to adapt all activities to your family's preferences and needs. These components include:

Pre-Assessment Web-Based Forms

You will complete a series of online forms about your child's development, family experiences, and your own perspectives and feelings. The forms take about an hour to complete. Some families may also submit medical or developmental records, or fill out a form that enables us to request those records from your child's providers.

Assessment Day 1 (3 hours)

You and your child visit our family-friendly laboratory to complete these tasks:

- Your child engaging in play-based activities that help us learn about personality, developmental abilities, and interests. Some of these activities are completed with the examiner, and others are completed with you directly.
- Your child viewing pictures on a computer while we measure electric brain activity using a special cap (electroencephalogram or "EEG" – see picture!)
- The examiner collecting heart activity and saliva from you and your child. These measures help us learn how you both respond to new activities and stress.
- You completing a brief interview about your experiences and feelings



Dr. Tonnsen holding baby Greta, who is participating in her EEG and wearing the vocal recording vest!

Child Vocal Recording (from home)

Your child will spend a typical day wearing a vest that records their vocalizations and interactions with others. To protect your privacy, you may request we exclude any recording segments when you return the vest.

Assessment Day 2 (3 hours)

After you return your vocal recording vest, we then complete your child's developmental testing, interview you about your feelings, mood, and experiences, and ask you to complete some puzzles that help us learn about how you think. If willing, you will also complete a series of EEG tasks, just like your child!

Reimbursement and Logistics | Your family will be reimbursed \$70 for this sequence (\$10 for forms + \$60 for visits). We also provide free, accessible parking and friendly support staff to play with any siblings who may tag along for your visit!

Questions? | We would love to answer any questions about the project, via e-mail or phone. Please e-mail Lisa at nddfamilylab@purdue.edu or call 765-494-3667. We look forward to hearing from you!