

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Our interviewing staff has compiled a list of the most common questions they hear from parents during the in-home visits. Below are answers to some of your most frequently asked questions.

### **Why do we ask the same questions over and over?**

The questions we ask have been developed, tested, and published by other researchers and are respected in the scientific community as reliable measures of domains of interest (like social support, sleep problems, depression, behavior problems, and self-esteem). Sometimes we ask the same questions every time we visit, but sometimes we ask them in a slightly different way. This can be frustrating, we know! We use this technique to increase our data pool and our chances of publishing our findings. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and answering all of the questions. We also ask the same questions at different visits because we are interested in tracking how behaviors change over time. For example, you may remember a question about your child's recent behaviors and at 18 months old, "demands must be met immediately" was very true for your child. But now that your child is older, the answer might have changed. Or, "acts too young for age" wasn't true at 27 months old, but at age 6 has become "very true." By examining how groups of children evolve during childhood, we can learn more about family and school environments and how genes are related to those changes.

Since our study began in 2002, we have collected more than 3,500 questions from families and will collect another 2,300 questions after the age 7 visits are complete. A study of this enormous proportion and value has attracted the attention and respect of researchers across the globe. Our research team is busy writing papers, presenting at conferences, and training new researchers (graduate students). For an update on published articles, presentations, and interviews, please check out our website at [www.earlydev.oslc.org](http://www.earlydev.oslc.org).

### **What do families get out of this?**

We hope that families enjoy participating in the in-home activities and answering questions about themselves, their beliefs, and their child. Additionally, we hope to learn how the mental and emotional health of parents, along with genetic influences, relates to the health of their children. This targeted information will help us develop future intervention programs for children aimed at preventing challenging or risky behaviors. The study has allowed us to provide reports to adoption agencies about what families experience both during and after the adoption process. We compiled answers anonymously and gave agency directors a bound report of statistics from the items we asked shortly after the placement of your child. Our agencies were pleased with the updates and may make policy changes as a result. The report is available on our website.

### **Can I get a copy of the results?**

Yes! Simply visit the study's website for a complete list of journal articles and results published by our scientists. New results are added several times a year as more articles become published.

### **How are we able to conduct this research?**

We are fortunate to have federal funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (OD). We submit annual progress reports to maintain yearly funding and our Human Subjects Review Board reviews our research plan, along with all of our study materials, to ensure that we are meeting ethical guidelines.

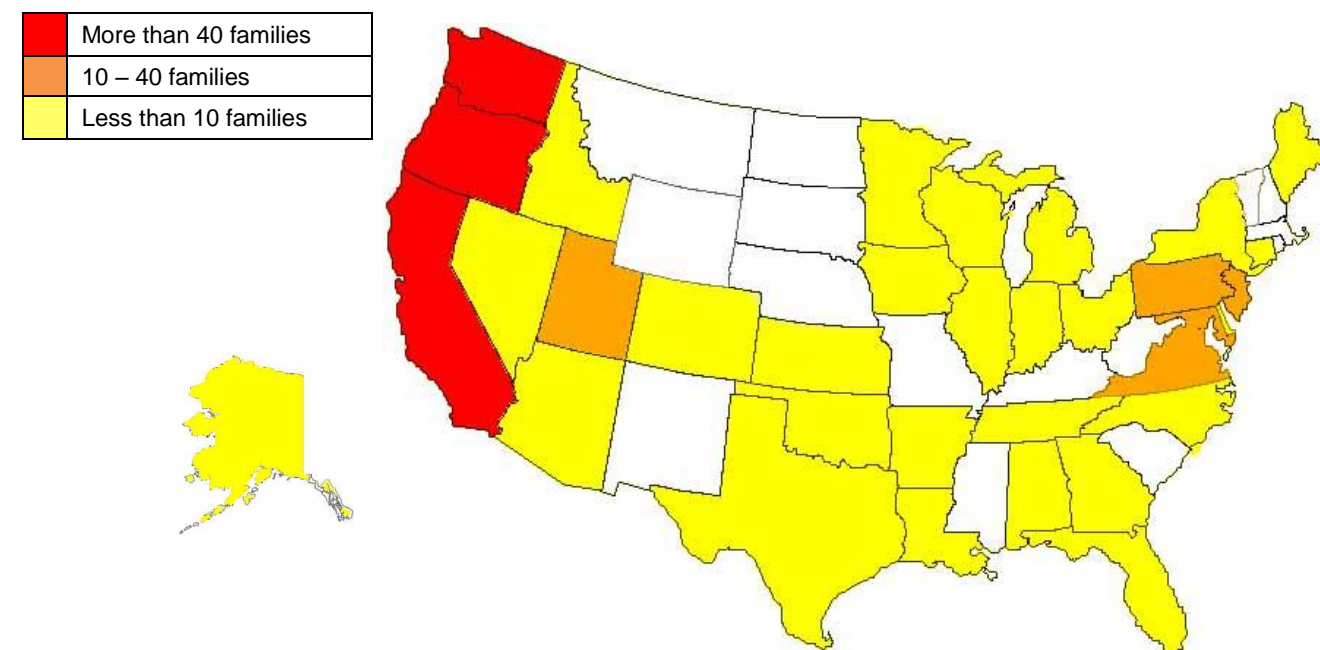
### **What is coming up next?**

We have received funding to continue this research when your child is 4 ½, 6, and 7 years old. The range of children in our study is currently age 4–7, which means that some of you have not been contacted regarding these visits, some of you have completed 1 or 2 visits, and some of you have completed every visit. By the time your child reaches the age 7 visit, your child will be starting to answer his/her own questions (with the help of the interviewer). As usual, we'll continue to mail or phone you with a brief set of questions between visits. If you haven't heard from us in a while, please give us a ring or send us an email.

Recently, we received funding for a sister-study in which we are continuing to work with adoption agencies to recruit an additional 200 families for the study. As a part of that study, we will also be collecting cheek swabs from family members to measure genetic markers. We hope to extend this research after age 7 and will seek continued funding. We have so much to learn from you!

## WHO ARE YOU?

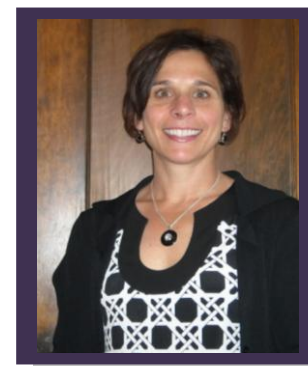
We have families participating in our study from all over the United States and the world. Most participants are located in Oregon, Washington, California, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, but we have participants in all but a handful of the United States. We even have participants living abroad!



## Did you know?

- We've traveled approximately 3,632,508 miles to complete interviews since the study began. That's roughly 8 round-trips to the moon!

## FAMILIAR FACES



Tara Seymour  
Interviewer (Penn State)



Debbie Pierson  
Interviewer (OSLC)



Denise Ford  
Interviewer (UC Riverside)



Margaret Rich  
Interviewer (Penn State)

**To meet the rest of the team or to get an update on published articles, visit our website:**

<http://www.earlydev.oslc.org>



## EARLY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STUDY

Oregon Social Learning Center, 10 Shelton McMurphey Blvd.  
Eugene, OR 97401-4928

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



# EARLY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STUDY

## 2010 NEWSLETTER

### Hello Early Growth and Development Study Families and Happy New Year!

With the New Year upon us, we're excited to give you an update on the Early Growth and Development Study. We've had a very busy couple of years and are thrilled to have traveled across the county to interview many of you during that time. If you haven't heard from us, chances are that we'll be calling you soon or that we've been trying to reach you. You're welcome to give us a call at our toll-free line at any time to check in about scheduling your next interview (1-866-203-5165).

Now that your child is getting a bit older, we want to provide a refresher about how our study began and why your continued participation is so important to us. The study was designed to learn more about how children develop and what factors contribute to certain outcomes like school performance or behaviors at home. For example, if a child's parents read a lot, will their child be a good reader? Does getting a good night's sleep affect this outcome? Do the child's genes have any influence?

Our research is successful because of the participation of families like you, and because of the efforts of our research team (check out a photo of some of our team members below!). Our recruiters, Tracy VanVlack, Diana Crom, Alyssa Middleton, and Megan Embree work diligently at all hours of the day, seven days a week, to keep in touch with families. They enjoy talking to all types of families and learning about how your child is doing and what kinds of changes are happening with your family. Our interviewers who travel to your homes report similar experiences. Our new interviewers are amazed to learn about all of the skills a child has when they visit a family for the first time. Our experienced interviewers love to re-visit families to see how the child has grown. One of our interviewers, Denise Ford, has been with the study since its inception and has visited more than 80 families, some since their child was 9 months old! Each interviewer is well-trained to gather data without influencing the results or compromising confidentiality. Our interviewers spend roughly 200 days a year traveling and return with stories about the wonderful places and people that they meet. Thank you for welcoming us into your homes and contributing to making our jobs enjoyable!

When the same families participate in our research year after year, we can continue to expand our knowledge about child development. Thank you so much for your continued efforts to make this study a success.

### We Appreciate Your Participation!

Thank you for continuing to participate in the Early Growth and Development Study. As always, call us if you move or change your phone number and we will send you a \$15 bonus. You can reach us toll-free at (866) 203-5165. We look forward to working with you again in the next phase of interviews. Best wishes to you in 2010!

Oregon Social Learning Center  
Early Growth and Development Study  
ATTN: Tracy VanVlack  
10 Shelton McMurphey Boulevard  
Eugene, OR 97401-4928  
Email: [tracyv@oslc.org](mailto:tracyv@oslc.org)  
(541) 485-2711 or (866) 203-5165 (toll-free)  
Website: [www.earlydev.oslc.org](http://www.earlydev.oslc.org)

