



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Eligible to Participate?

- ◆ Children and adolescents between the ages of 8 and 17 with autism spectrum disorder and who are considered “high functioning” (specifically Asperger’s syndrome, High Functioning Autism, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified) .

What Does Participation Involve?

- ◆ Participation will involve either one or two sessions. Some participants will participate for approximately 1 hour while others participate for 3-4 hours. Parents and teachers will also be asked to complete questionnaires regarding the child participant.
- ◆ All child participants will receive a \$25 gift card (e.g., Chapters, Cineplex Odeon, etc.), and parents and teachers will each receive a \$10 gift card.
- ◆ Participation will occur at the University of Calgary and will involve completion of simple tasks related to bullying (peer victimization), social skills, and emotional abilities. Drinks, snacks & free parking are provided.
- ◆ Appointments will be arranged at a convenient time for participants, including weekdays, weekends, and evenings. A research assistant will be pleased to assist you find your way to our lab.

Research Team

Principal Investigator:

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Graduate Students:

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Peer Victimization in Students with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Research Project

For more information on participation in this study, please contact us at:

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What challenges do students with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder (HFASD) face?

- Difficulties in social interaction and communication.
- Repetitive patterns of behaviours, interests, & activities.

- ◆ Current research has shown that students with HFASD experience high rates of bullying/peer victimization.
- ◆ Bullying has been shown to lead to many negative outcomes for the victims, such as mental and physical health issues and poor academic achievement.
- ◆ Our research group is interested in examining the incidence, form, and impact of bullying among students with HFASD.
- ◆ The primary goal of this research project is to gain a deeper understanding of the specific risk factors related to bullying (peer victimization) in students aged 8-17 with HFASD.
- ◆ We believe that it is important to study risk factors for peer victimization in a high risk population to improve our knowledge of bullying in the general population and result in enhanced developmental outcomes for all students.

Research Objectives

- 1) What is the incidence of different forms of bullying in students with HFASD?
- 2) Does the form of bullying differ as a function of age?
- 3) How do parent and teacher reports of bullying of HFASD students compare to student report?
- 4) Do cognitive and/or social abilities influence risk for peer victimization in students with HFASD?
- 5) Does social cognition influence the risk for bullying in students with HFASD?
- 6) Do these social cognitive abilities interact and/or compensate for each other in terms of risk for peer bullying in students with HFASD?

Additional Information:

- ◆ Participants in this study include children and adolescents, aged 8-17, with a high functioning autism spectrum disorder, their parent(s)/guardian(s), and a teacher.
- ◆ Parents/guardians will provide valuable information regarding their child's/ adolescent's social and emotional characteristics. Parental involvement will require approximately 60 minutes.
- ◆ We anticipate that your participation in this research project will provide a better understanding and inform interventions and policies for students with HFASD.

This research is made possible through your participation!

We want to thank you in advance for your help in furthering this research

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