To Whom It May Concern:

Here is an invitation from a team of researchers at the University of Maryland, who are conducting a ***neuroimaging study on social interaction***. This study may help researchers understand the neural mechanisms of social interaction and communication in autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Understanding such mechanism could advance our understanding of ASD and potentially help shape future interventions.

**Who qualifies?**

Children 8-12 years with ASD who can visit College Park, MD, with a parent.

**What is involved?**

* The study includes **four** visits, each of which will last about two hours. ***We are very flexible with our hours and can accommodate to nearly any schedule.***
* **First visit.** Parent(s) will complete a standardized parent interview ***virtually***. Specifically, parents will complete the Autism Diagnostic Interview, Revised (ADI-R) with a licensed clinical psychologist. The ADI-R is used to aid in the diagnosis and characterization of autism, although it does not clinically confirm the diagnosis on its own.
* **Second visit.** Your child will complete a ***virtual visit*** with a research assistant. They will play games on the computer, listen to stories, watch videos and answer questions about themselves.
* **Third/fourth visits**. These visits involve an fMRI scan. The fMRI is safe and does not include any radiation. Your child will play games while in the scanner and we will record their brain activity. We want to provide practice time and ensure that your child feels comfortable with the process; thus, although this visit is two-hours long, the scan itself will only be about 45 minutes.

**Compensation:**

* You will receive $10/hour up to $30 maximum for the ADI virtual visit.
* You will receive $20/hour for each two-hour session, for a total of $120. Parking is free.
* You child will receive a toy prize for participation after each fMRI session and a picture of his or her brain.

**Interested?** Please click on this link to go to our participant contact form. A study team member will contact you to schedule a screening call to confirm that your child qualifies: <https://redcap.lib.umd.edu/surveys/?s=YYA73WJAAJ>

**Questions?** Please contact marylandbrainstudygroup@umd.edu or 301-458-0685.

Thank you very much, and we hope you have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,

Maryland Brain Study Group