

## Recruitment

We are committed to representing diverse populations in our research and invite families of various racial and ethnic backgrounds, including African American, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, and other individuals with diverse backgrounds.

Help us spread the word by sharing this invitation with your neighbors, friends, and family!



## Upcoming Stages

### Study Schedule

24 weeks pregnant	Questionnaires
32 weeks pregnant	Questionnaires, saliva sampling
1 month old	Questionnaires, MRI scan
6 months old	Questionnaires, behavioral observation, infant saliva sampling
12 months old	Questionnaires, interview with mother
18 months old	Questionnaires
24 months old	Questionnaires, MRI scan, behavioral observation, mother and infant saliva sampling

\*\* \$100 bonus for successful completion of all stages

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Baby Brain & Behavior Project  
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Waisman Center  
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## Baby Brain & Behavior Project

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Waisman Center \* 1500 Highland Avenue \* Madison WI 53705  
<http://conte.wisc.edu/bbb/>

Director:  
R. Davidson, Ph.D.

Collaborators:  
UW Dept. of Psychology  
UW Dept. Psychiatry  
Waisman Center

Feature Article:

*Behavioral Development*  
Elizabeth Planalp, Ph.D.  
Cory Schmidt



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Center for  
Investigating  
Healthy Minds  
at the Waisman Center

## Research Update

Dear families,

As I write this note, the seasons are beginning to change and our first infant research participants are celebrating their one year birthdays. On behalf of the entire research team, I extend deep gratitude to you for sharing this special time of your lives with our research project. In a very short time, our research family has quickly grown. We have completed nearly 90 neuroimaging visits with infants at 1 month of age and 50 behavioral visits with infants six months of age. What makes this research project truly special is the extraordinary dedication of our staff and the amazing cooperation we have received from families such as yourselves. We truly appreciate your surveys, visits, and interviews. Collectively, the research will yield an important developmental story about the interplay of biology, experience, and child well-being. We are already beginning to glimpse the true scientific potential of the work. We look forward to sharing results from our work after they have been accepted for publication. Final preparations are underway for the two-year research visits. Around your child's second birthday, we will invite your family back for more behavioral and neuroimaging visits. It has been an absolute delight for the research team to meet so many wonderful parents and babies. We will continue to enroll new families in the coming months and appreciate you sharing study contact information with pregnant women you know. Warmest wishes to you and your family!

With deep gratitude,  
Richard J. Davidson



## Fun Facts

A baby's neurons rapidly multiply; the brain creates 250,000 neurons per minute during early pregnancy!

A baby is born with the ability to create sounds of every known language. Around 8 months, his ability to make some sounds disappears due to native language exposure.

During the first two years of a baby's life, parents lose an average of six months of sleep.

## Featured Research

Behavioral Development Perspectives  
Elizabeth Planalp, PhD. and Cory Schmidt

Infant emotion is traditionally assessed with behavioral observation. Even at six months of age, children skillfully navigate their environments and demonstrate a wide range of behavioral responses. Your child's behavior is a meaningful indicator of his emotional state and general temperament. We measure behavior using naturalistic tasks and observe visual and behavioral cues to identify child fear, sadness, anger, happiness, surprise or even confusion.

Early childhood is a particularly interesting time to study emotion. At such an early age, infants have not yet learned to "down regulate" or dampen negative emotions. Subsequently, we can easily discern her underlying emotional predisposition before it is filtered through natural regulation. Some children exhibit more surprise than others when presented with a fast moving stimuli. Other children use more smiles to indicate happiness when playing with a shiny toy. **One goal of the Baby, Brain & Behavior Project is to better understand the neurological correlates of early emotional individuality. Specifically, we are one of the first research teams to capture both brain development at one month of age and emotion related behavior at six months of age.**

During the six month behavioral visit, we observe your child's behavior throughout a series of brief tasks meant to elicit emotion. In one task, your child is shown an enticing toy, but she is prevented from touching it. This scenario, which is common for much of a six month old's life, provides a window to her individual anger at not being able to play with the toy, as well as her regulation of anger expression. The activities were designed in part by Dr. H. Hill Goldsmith, co-investigator on the Baby Project and recognized as a leading theorist in studies of affective development. Similar tasks have been utilized for over 30 years, and are esteemed as the "gold standard" in observational measurements of infant and child emotion.

Cory Schmidt and Elizabeth Planalp lead the behavioral visits and each bring extensive experience working with young children and are experts in behavioral coding. Cory has worked with Dr. Goldsmith for over fifteen years as a research coordinator and behavioral coding expert. Elizabeth received her Ph.D. in infant emotional development in 2014 from the University of Notre Dame. They are both excited to be working with you and your family and appreciate your participation in this study!



Elizabeth Planalp Ph.D



Cory Schmidt

## Further Research

Other research opportunities at the Waisman Center

The Waisman Laboratory for Brain Imaging and Behavior is inviting research participants for a study examining how the bacteria living in the infant gut influences early brain and cognitive development. We are recruiting parents with infants between 1 and 3 months of age are invited to contact us for more information. Participation in this pilot study involves a trip to the Waisman Center with your child for brain imaging sessions, cognitive assessments, and collection of fecal samples. Sessions will take place when your child is 4 and 12 months old.

Contact us to learn more:

[qmri@bi.wisc.edu](mailto:qmri@bi.wisc.edu) or 608-265-1445.

Many thanks for your consideration!




## Contact Us



Help us keep our records up to date. Please email or call us with your current telephone number/s and address. Also, we invite you to share our study information with your family and friends.

 [babybrain@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:babybrain@mailplus.wisc.edu)

 (608) 890-3073 (local)