

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CHILDREN (AGE <3 YEARS OLD) TO HELP US MAKE VIDEOS OF NORMAL GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

What do we want to do?

We are developing an education module for parents and health professionals on normal AND abnormal motor development in young children. This education module is endorsed by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Our aim is to improve knowledge of normal motor development in children, show what abnormal motor development looks like and teach how to recognise this in children.

Who are we and why do we want to do this?

We are a team of specialist doctors looking after children with muscle diseases. We have found that children with muscle diseases, who typically present with abnormal motor development, continue to be diagnosed late. This has a negative impact on their prognosis as they miss out on early treatment and intervention. In addition, an early diagnosis would allow counselling regarding future pregnancies. Most muscle diseases have a genetic cause (meaning they can be passed on from parent to child) and there is a risk of a second affected child if the diagnosis in the first child is delayed.

How could we use your help?

For this session we are looking for children with normal motor development. We would like to make a number of videos showing children's ability to roll, sit, stand, walk, climb and perhaps run. In other words just doing their normal activities!

This session is about NORMAL child development. However, we will also be filming children with abnormal motor development (in particular children with muscle diseases). We will use both sets of videos to illustrate components of normal motor skills versus abnormal motor skills.

What would we like to achieve?

We think that by improving knowledge about normal motor development in children, both for parents and health professionals, this will in turn lead to improvements in the recognition of abnormal motor development and result in an earlier diagnosis of muscle diseases.

What does the filming involve?

We are looking for children under the age of three to be filmed (by an official film crew) for approximately half a day. The filming involves capturing one motor skill per child, i.e. rolling in a 6 month old, sitting in a 9 month old, standing in a 12 month old etc. Each video will be about 1-2 minutes long. The filming will take place at the Great North Children's Hospital at the Child Development Centre in Newcastle.

As we are on a tight budget we can't afford any payments but it should be a fun morning and we will make sure there is plenty of coffee, cakes and treats for the kids.

Who to contact?

For any further information or to register your interest, please contact us on the following email:

henriette.van-ruiten@newcastle.ac.uk

I look forward to hearing from you!

Henriette

Dr Henriette van Ruiten
Paediatric doctor specialising in neuromuscular diseases.
John Walton Muscular Dystrophy Research Centre
Newcastle University
<http://newcastle-muscle.org>

See also our scientific publication on this topic:
<http://adc.bmj.com/content/early/2014/09/03/archdischild-2014-306366.full>

