Western Michigan University
Occupational Therapy Department

**Principle Researcher:** Michelle Suarez, PhD, OTR/L

**Study Title:** Identifying an Underlying Physiological Process Associated with Food Selectivity in Children with ASD

Dear Parent,

Thank you for completing the phase-one survey for this autism and eating study. The following document will describe phase-two of this study. After you read this information, you will have the option of providing contact information to schedule a time to come to the lab for phase-two data collection.

**What are we trying to find out in this study?**
This study examines the physiological response to food for children with autism. We will use small stickers that attach metal electrodes to the child’s hand to gather their physiological electrodermal (physical-skin) response to different foods.

**Who can participate in this study?**
Children who have an autism diagnosis, have not had feeding treatment, and are not taking medication that will affect their physical skin response to food can participate. Also, children must be in the 3-8 year old age range. Some children who participate will be picky eaters and some will eat a large variety of foods.

**What will you and your child be asked to do if you choose to participate in this study.**
You will be asked to bring your child to campus for a data gathering session that will take about an hour. If your child agrees and while you watch, we will put some electrodes (with stickers) on your child’s non-dominant hand. Then, we will present about 20 foods to your child on a plate and monitor their skin response to the food. Your child will be asked to “take a bite” and they will have the choice to either eat or not eat the food. After 10 seconds, the plate will be removed and a new plate with a new food will be placed in front of your child. During or after this process, you will be asked to fill out a Short Sensory Profile and an autism rating scale for your child.

We understand that changes in routine are sometimes hard for children with autism. If you are interested in participating we can provide you with a step-by-step picture book that details what is entailed in participating in phase-two of this study. You can share this book with your child to help reduce some of the possible anxiety that they may feel participating in something new to them.

**Where will this study take place?**
Phase-Two of this study will take place at your choice of either Western Michigan University Kalamazoo College of Health and Human Services, or the Unified Clinic, or Grand Rapids Campus.
What is the time commitment for participating in this study?
The Phase-Two data collection will take about an hour.

What are the benefits of participating in this study?
This study will help inform treatment for children with autism. Also, your child will have the opportunity to choose a small prize and you will receive a $50 gift card as a token of our appreciated for your participation.

Who will have access to the information collected in this study?
Survey and skin response data will be identified with a random number and the participant key will be stored on a secure WMU server. Only data from participants who signed the consent will be used in analysis. Results of this study may be presented at a professional conference or published in a scholarly journal. Presented or published results will not include any identifying participant information.

What if you want to stop participating in this study?
You can choose to remove your data from research analysis at any time for any reason. Contact Michelle Suarez in the clinic or via phone or email (michelle.a.suarez@wmich.edu or 269-387-8467). You may also contact the Western Michigan University Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board at 269-387-8293 or the Vice President for Research at 269-387-8298 if questions arise during the course of the study. This consent document has been approved for use from August 1, 2013 through July 31, 2014 by the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (HSIRB).

Next step is you are interested in participating in phase-two...
If you are interested in participating in phase-two, skin response to food, please provide contact information below and we will contact you to set up a time for you and your child to come to the lab, and send you the picture book. The consent form is attached for your review. We will have a copy available for you at the lab to sign if you choose to participate. If you are not interested in continuing to phase-two, you can exit this survey now. You can end participation in phase-two at any time by telling us you are done or just leaving the data gathering area with no penalty or prejudice. This consent document has been approved for use for one year by the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (HSIRB) as indicated by the stamped date and signature of the board chair in the upper right corner. Do not participate in this study if the stamped date is older than one year. Thank you!

Signature

Date