

Infant Development Study



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why are you swabbing my baby's cheek?**

We are swabbing your baby's cheek to get cells that normally fall off regularly in the mouth that contain DNA. We use this to look at how the DNA code is related to the baby's development and how the baby responds to everyday life.

- **What is DNA?**

DNA is "deoxyribonucleic acid." It is the building block of life. 99.9% of DNA is the same in each person, however small differences in the DNA code (or sequence) exist that help us figure out what genes are doing. In this study we are looking at small difference in genes that we know relate to baby's behavior and development. One of them is called FKBP5. If you would like more information about this specific gene let us know. If you want more information about genetics the American Society of Human Genetics has a great web page with lots of information: http://www.ashg.org/education/everyone_1.shtml

- **Why are you collecting my baby's spit?**

Your baby's spit contains "cortisol" which is a part of saliva, as well as something that is also found in the blood, and affects the whole body. Cortisol is not good or bad. Babies, just like adults, have different levels of cortisol both in response to day to day events as well as throughout the day. We know that the parent-child relationship is really important for shaping the baby's cortisol levels.

- **What policy changes would you hope to make because of this study?**

We hope that our data will show just how important the parent-child relationship is for every babies health and development. We also want to show that supporting moms and providing them more resources when they are pregnant or when they have really young children promotes the healthiest development. Through this research we hope that we will be able to convince policy makers to invest more money and resources specifically for pregnant moms and young babies.

- **Can I get a copy of my child's results?**

We don't actually look at any individual child's results. Because we want to know how all children are doing as a group we aren't able to give you any specific results. However, when we write papers or present talks about this study we can send you that information. Additionally we have information about our findings on our web page. We can also send you these papers if you are interested, just let us know.

Can I find out more?

- Yes! We are actually trying to find out if moms involved in the study would like to hear more about the study in person. If we set up a time for people in the community to come and hear about the study would you want us to let you know? If you would please just email or call us. Also if you have other questions you or other moms might want to have answered we would love your feedback so that we can make sure to provide the best information possible. Please see our web page and feel free to email up with any additional questions at bangltulane@gmail.com or call 504-656-6449.