



The Leverhulme Trust

This research in children and adults with Fragile X Syndrome is supported by the Leverhulme Trust.

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**The Cerebra Centre for  
Neurodevelopmental Disorders**

## New Research - Social Development in Fragile X Syndrome

There are two new exciting research projects being led by Prof. Chris Oliver and Dr. Jo Moss at the Cerebra Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders, University of Birmingham, investigating social development in people with Fragile X Syndrome. The projects will be run by Dr. Sissy Stefanidou (Postdoctoral Research Fellow) and Kat Ellis (Doctoral Researcher). Read below to find out how you can get involved!



### Social Development in Fragile X Syndrome

The goal of our new research projects is to better understand how children and adults with Fragile X Syndrome understand the social world and how this affects their social interactions and relationships. Particularly, to find out how people with Fragile X Syndrome process social information, including other people's actions, faces or emotions, and how they perceive social situations. We hope that our research will contribute to the early detection of social difficulties that some people with Fragile X might have and the development of more effective intervention programmes for improving their quality of life.

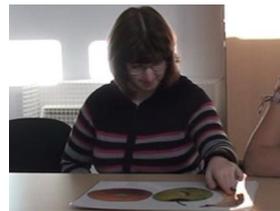


### What does our research involve?

#### a) Study in children and adults with Fragile X Syndrome

We are looking for adults and children of **all ages** to complete one or more of the assessments, described below. These will take place at the University of Birmingham and will take up to 3 hours in total.

- **Assessments of language, speech and communication development.**
- **Tasks and fun activities** that demonstrate a person's social skills and abilities in different social situations.



#### b) Study in children and adolescents with Fragile X Syndrome

We are also looking for children and adolescents aged **2 to 16 years** to complete one or more of the assessments, described below, which will be spread over two daily visits at the University of Birmingham. These are safe, non-invasive and have been previously used with infants, children and adults.

- **Assessments of language and speech development, and social and communication skills.**
- **Child-friendly EEG assessments** in which a spongy cap is placed on the child's head. This reads the natural activity produced by the child's brain and is non-invasive.
- **Eye-tracking assessments** which show us where a person is looking on a screen, giving us information about what a person finds interesting.



#### What will happen if you take part?

Our assessments will take place at the School of Psychology of the University of Birmingham. If you decide to take part in our studies and travel to the University, travel and accommodation expenses will be covered and lunch will be provided. Scheduling of participation is flexible for both of our studies, and can include weekdays or weekends, as you prefer. However, we appreciate the difficulties that some families may have travelling to Birmingham, and we are happy to travel to your home, in order to complete part of our assessments that require only transportable equipment.

Following your participation in our study, we will also provide you with feedback reports on cognitive assessments and assessments of social and communication development.

#### Interested?

If you are interested in learning more about our studies, or signing up for participation, please contact Sissy at 0121 414 9775 or at [c.stefanidou@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.stefanidou@bham.ac.uk), or Kat at 0121 414 2855 or at [KRE061@bham.ac.uk](mailto:KRE061@bham.ac.uk).