Study on Spatial Hearing, Speech and Language in Children with Bilateral CIs at the University of Wisconsin - Madison

The Binaural Hearing and Speech Lab
Ruth Litovsky, Ph.D., Director

We are studying how children learn to locate sounds in their environment.

Children ages 4-17 years, who use bilateral cochlear implants are invited to participate in our studies

If you need to travel to Madison, WI, cost of travel, hotel, meals and related expenses are covered. Daily stipend $100 for participation

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact:

Shelly Godar, MA, CCC-A
Tel: (608) 262-7483
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bhsl.waisman.wisc.edu/for-participants

To complete our online Research Screening Survey visit: goo.gl/0j5lVU

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How do children with cochlear implants hear in noisy environments and localize sounds?

Dear Parent/Guardian:

With great enthusiasm, we invite you to participate in our research study!

We began our studies in 2003, and have since recruited over 120 children who use cochlear implants. Our research program is described and our publications can be found on our lab web page at bhsl.waisman.wisc.edu.

We are studying how children with cochlear implants are able to understand speech and localize sounds in “realistic” listening environments, and how they perform on measures of memory, language and cognition. We are interested in understanding how children with cochlear implants perform, on effects of age of implantation, and hearing history of the child.

Children who come to our lab are tested using fun, interactive “games” that enable us to measure their hearing and language. In our lab we simulate aspects of complex noisy rooms, such as a pre-school classroom. We ask the child to tell us what they hear and where the sound comes from. We measure their behaviors, including eye gaze, reaching for sounds and head turning.

Our test protocol takes approximately two to three days. If your child naps in the afternoon we make sure that the routine is kept constant. Usually children and their parent arrive in Madison the evening before testing begins so they are fresh the following morning for our study. Children will receive small toys and stickers as part of the test protocol. Families also receive a stipend of $50.00 for each half-day session or $100.00 for each full day session for each child’s participation, with the stipend being mailed to the parent/guardian at the completion of the testing session. In addition, we provide hotel and travel costs for the child and one parent, plus a meal allowance per day.

We pride ourselves on our fun and positive relationships with children and parents alike. Our study currently has openings for children meeting the following characteristics:

- Age 4-17 years: children who have received or will receive two (bilateral) cochlear implants
- Children with at least 6 months exposure to listening with a CI
- Children who use primarily oral communication
- Native English speakers

If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please contact us by phone or visit our website at bhsl.waisman.wisc.edu/for-participants to learn more.

With thanks and best wishes,

Ruth Litovsky, Ph.D.,
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Professor of Communicative Disorders

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