

# UF SPEECH DEVELOPMENT LAB

DECEMBER 2024

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

All of us in the Speech Development Laboratory would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season! We would also like to express our gratitude for your involvement in our PRALD study. Whether you are the parent of a child who has participated - or who is planning to participate - or a school, medical center, or other facility that has helped with recruitment, we appreciate all that you have done.

Since March 2024 we have had a total of 90 mother-child pairs come to the laboratory to complete testing. Your efforts are paying off! As we collect the data, we are able to start piecing together a picture of how prematurity and/or frequent ear infections can affect development of the central auditory pathways, meaning those nerve connections that allow sound to travel unimpeded to the brain. We are also able to look at language development across all the children who have been to the Speech Development Laboratory.

All this information will be used in the next months and years to educate teachers, clinicians, and policy makers regarding the need for appropriate health care and early intervention for our communities. We could not have done any of this without each of you. So, again, from the bottom of our hearts we thank you.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

**Next year:** As we move into the new year, 2025, we will continue to welcome NEW families to participate in our research study. Please keep up the good work of recruiting mothers with children between the ages of 3 and 7 years of age. We especially need children who were either born preterm or who had lots of ear infections before the age of 3 years.

**And beyond:** As a reminder, we will begin calling families to return to the Speech Development Laboratory for a second test session in March, 2026. If you have already participated and move, please be sure to email or call us with your new contact information.

As in the past, all information that we gather is kept strictly confidential. We do not share any information about the families participating in our study with anyone or with any agency.

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