

Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Evidence-based Treatment for ASD in Part C Early Intervention Settings



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The **UW READi Lab** has received a 4-year research grant funded by the U.S. Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. The purpose of the grant is to assess the effectiveness of **Reciprocal Imitation Training (RIT)** for improving social communication in toddlers with ASD or suspected ASD. RIT is a low cost, play-based ASD intervention that can be used by EI providers as well as taught to caregivers for their own use at home. For this grant, we are examining how providers implement RIT as well as how its use impacts caregivers and children. We have revised the study design to suit the current state of COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. ***We are looking to enroll providers as soon as possible.*** Below are the primary activities for providers and caregivers.

- **Providers who enroll in the study** will complete surveys about their practices at 5 time points. The first surveys will be sent out via an online link after providers give informed consent and enroll. Once enrolled, providers will be randomly assigned to receive either the RIT training webinar or a 2-hour webinar on helping caregivers increase their children's participation in everyday home routines. Providers in both conditions will recruit 2 families from their caseload to participate in the study (see details below). Providers who receive the home routines webinar will be given the opportunity to receive RIT training at the end of the study. *We are planning to start the training webinars in February.* Shortly thereafter, the family recruitment period will begin. All enrolled providers will be compensated up to **\$360** for the following activities: attending the virtual training, completing surveys at each time point, referring eligible families for the study, and recording one intervention session for each enrolled family.
- **Caregivers who enroll in the study** will: (1) complete questionnaires about themselves and their child 3 times over a 6-month period; (2) conduct play-based assessments with their child at home 3 times over a 6-month period (the assessments will be conducted over Zoom, guided by UW research staff); and (3) allow their provider or a UW research staff member to video-record one intervention session with their provider. Children will receive a free diagnostic evaluation and report at the end of the study. Caregivers will be compensated up to **\$500** for completing surveys, conducting play-based assessments, and completing weekly checklists on their RIT usage (RIT group only).
- **Program directors** will be reimbursed **\$125** per enrolled provider, in compensation for the billable hours lost during the one-day RIT training.

For more information about the **SPROUT** study, please contact us at sproutstudy@uw.edu.