

Is your child having trouble learning how to speak?

4-6 year old volunteers needed for language study

The Speech Lab at Boston University is looking for 4-6 year old children to participate in basic research studies exploring the underlying causes of developmental language difficulties. Children with suspected language difficulties AND children acquiring language typically are invited to participate.

Children with developmental language difficulties usually say their first words later than expected, and may have problems speaking clearly. These children are at risk for later reading and academic problems.

Participation involves coming to 2-3 sessions at the Speech Lab at Boston University. Each session will take about 1½ - 2 hours, and can be scheduled at your convenience. The Speech Lab is located on Commonwealth Ave. on the BU Charles River Campus. The building is accessible by T or by car, with parking provided.

The sessions include language screening and many different activities structured as games. Most children find the sessions interesting and fun. Children receive rewards and a small gift for participating.

In order to participate, children must:

- 1) be native English speakers, with no other language spoken in the home.
- 2) have normal cognitive abilities/non-verbal intelligence, normal social/emotion development, normal hearing, and reasonably intelligible articulation.
- 3) have no history of neurological or genetic disorder, such as ADHD, autism, or Down syndrome.

Potential benefits include language screening. Upon request, we can make referrals and share results from screening procedures with appropriate clinicians and agencies. Another potential benefit is that these studies should help us understand developmental language problems, so that we can develop better diagnostic and remediation procedures.

For more information, please call (617) 353-7531 or email speech@bu.edu. All sessions will be scheduled at your convenience. We look forward to hearing from you.