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BRAIN LAB

NEWSLETTER

WINTER
2025

Advancing Diagnostic Equity

In a new study, we examined a widely used autism assessment and found that a few items—like language level, offering information, and compulsions/rituals—showed small but systematic differences across racial groups. For example, Asian and Black/African American children were more likely than White children to show compulsions and rituals, according to both clinicians and caregivers. Overall differences in clinician scores were very small. Next, we'll explore possible sex differences. Our goal is to help ensure autism assessments are fair and equitable for all children, especially as this tool is currently being revised by its developers.



Touch-A-Truck Event

In September, the BRAIN Lab partnered with the National Guard to host a Sensory-Friendly Touch-A-Truck event. Look out for more events coming soon! Follow us on social media below for updates.



Early Reward Processing In Preschoolers

We have preliminary TREAT study results from 75 local children! We're finding that nonautistic children as young as 3 show stronger brain responses to highly rewarding prizes (fidgets and toys) than to less rewarding ones (like a pencil), similar to how adult brains respond to winning and losing money.

This is the first evidence of a neural reward response in children this young. These findings lay the groundwork for testing the neural reward response in young autistic children, which will help us understand early reward processing and develop more targeted interventions.



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follow us on social media!



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