

WAISMAN CENTER

Binaural Hearing and Speech Lab

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How do toddlers 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 <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/bhl/>.

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 unilateral or bilateral 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 days on which we test for ½ day each, and you would be free in the afternoons, to rest, see the town, etc. 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. Families receive a stipend of \$100/day for their participation. 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 18-36 months
- Children who received a cochlear implant in one or both ears, with at least 6 months of 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 email (below). You may also visit our website at <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/bhl/> to learn more.

With thanks and best wishes,

Ruth Litovsky, Ph.D.,
Director, Binaural Hearing and Speech Lab
Professor of Communicative Disorders

Shelly Godar, MA, CCC-A
Manager, Binaural Hearing and Speech Lab
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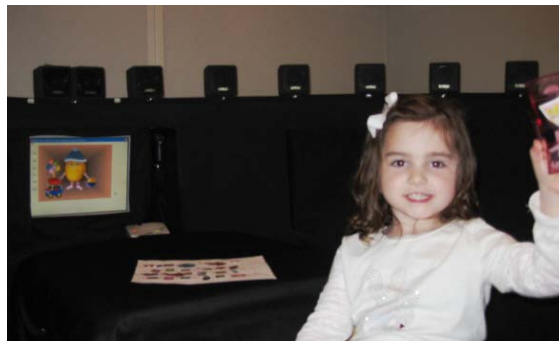


Study on Spatial Hearing, Speech and Language in Toddlers who use CIs

University of Wisconsin - Waisman Center

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 18 -36 months,
who use cochlear implants in one ear or in both ears,
are invited to participate in our studies

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:

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<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/bhl/>