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## **Early Intervention for Repetitive or Self-Injurious Behavior in Young Children**

The person responsible for this study is Dr. David M. Richman, University of Illinois Department of Special Education. The study involves weekly in-home observations of you and your child interacting in a variety of environmental situations for approximately 90 minutes (one time per week for one year). Very little is known about what causes early repetitive and self-injurious behaviors such as hand mouthing or head banging. All children engage in some repetitive movements when they are an infant. Most children stop doing these behaviors and switch to movements that have a purpose. However, some children continue these behaviors that may eventually become self-injurious such as hand mouthing, head hitting, or head banging.

### Purpose:

The purpose of the study is to assess the effectiveness of a behavior management treatment for these behaviors. The treatment package has been shown to be effective for reducing self-injurious behavior in older children and adults with developmental disabilities, but it has not been implemented with very young children with repetitive and potentially self-injurious behavior that is just starting to occur. The treatment will consist of a Research Assistant coming to your home to model how to interrupt repetitive behaviors and teach your child to engage in appropriate communication and developmentally appropriate toy play to replace repetitive behaviors.

There are no discomforts, risks, or costs specifically associated with the behavior management interventions, but your child may initially become upset when the repetitive behaviors are stopped. While there are no direct risks, there may not be any direct benefit from participating in this research project because there is a chance that the treatment package may not reduce your child's repetitive behavior. However, it is our hope that this research project will help you reduce your child's repetitive behaviors, and help us learn how to help other children in the future that have characteristics similar to your child.

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact David Richman at (217) 265-4040 or e-mail: [dritchman@uiuc.edu](mailto:dritchman@uiuc.edu).