

Dear Parents:

If your child 4- or 5-year-old child has an identified language learning problem or if your child's sentences appear to be less mature than those of other 4- and 5-year-olds, he or she might qualify for a study that we are conducting in the Department of Hearing and Speech at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC). In this project, which is sponsored by one of the National Institutes of Health, we are studying language learning difficulties in preschoolers. Our ultimate goal is to gain knowledge that helps us design more effective language therapies for these children. We are particularly interested in 4- and 5-year-old children who do better on tasks that don't involve language than they do in their talking.

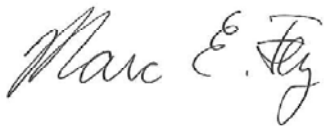
In the study sessions, we will use toys and puppets to act out familiar verbs like walk and made-up verbs, like *dack*. The verbs will be presented in different forms such as, *walk/dack*; *walks/dacks*; and *are walking/iare dacking*. We will then prompt the child to talk about the actions using the verb forms he/she has heard. Through this work, we expect to find out more about what causes language learning difficulties as well as how to design more effective treatment techniques.

If you consent to be in the study, we will first conduct some tests to determine if your child meets all the criteria for participation in the study. If he/she is eligible, we will begin the research phase, which involves two 15-minute sessions per week for 5 weeks. We will provide you with a report that can be shared with your child's teachers or speech-language pathologist. Including the initial testing sessions and the research sessions, there are approximately 14 sessions. These sessions can take place in your home or at KUMC. We pay families \$9.00 for each session that takes place at KUMC.

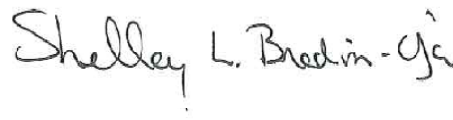
Participation is voluntary; if you choose not to participate, this will in no way affect any services that your child currently may be receiving. We will not be aware of you or your child's name unless you contact us.

If you would like to find out more about this research project, contact us by email at mfeiy@kumc.edu or sbredin-oja@kumc.edu or call (913) 588-5937 or (913) 588-0574.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to hear from you soon.



Marc E. Fey, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Professor



Shelley L. Bredin-Oja, M.A. CCC-SLP
Senior Research Associate

Input Sources of Grammatical Deficits in Specific Language Impairment
Clinician/Teacher/Parent Screening Profile
Marc Fey/Shelley Bredin-Oja
mfey@kumc.edu/sbredin-oja@kumc.edu
913-588-0574

Children who meet the description below may well qualify for the study. Parents should be informed of the study and should be given the parent materials. Bear in mind that we will be seeking these children until approximately June 1, 2012.

1. Child's age: **4;0 – 5;11**
2. Primary Language: **Standard American English**
3. Is the child receiving language services or does he/she appear to be eligible for services right now? **Yes**
4. Does the child occasionally omit verb forms? We're looking for children who sometimes use but sometimes omit function words, like *is*, *am*, *are*, and verb endings, like *-s* and *-ed*. If you're concerned that the child might speak African American English, ask yourself whether the child occasionally omits *was* or *am* in cases in which they're needed. If the answer is, "yes," then a referral would be appropriate. **Yes**
5. Has the child been diagnosed with cognitive or hearing impairment, autism, or behavior disorder? **No, or not to my knowledge**
6. Has the child had any ear infections in the past 3 months? **No, or not to my knowledge**
7. Is the child's speech typical for his/her age? **No, but he/she is mostly intelligible and word-final consonants and final s-clusters appear regularly.**

If your child appears to qualify, you may contact us in person or by phone. Participation requires four test visits at KUMC, each lasting about an hour. There are 10 additional study visits at KUMC or in the child's home. Parents are reimbursed at \$9.00 per visit when they come to KUMC.

Thank you for your help. Please contact us if you have questions.