



**How much does genetics influence learning and behavior in children with Down syndrome?**

This large scale, multi-site project will have the power to identify factors, both genetic and environmental, that lead to the variation in cognitive functioning seen in individuals with Down syndrome.

The funding for this project has been provided by the LuMind Research Down Syndrome Foundation. We are grateful for their support.



## The Cognition Project

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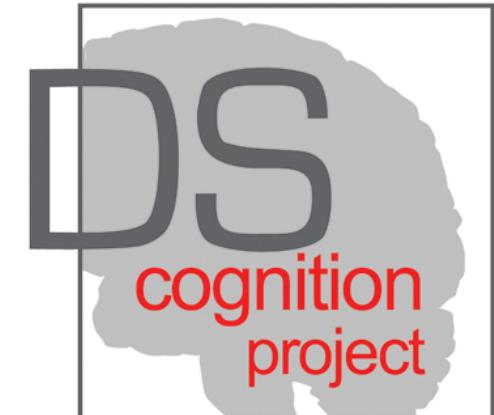
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Research Announcement



Exploring cognitive variation in people with Down syndrome

**A nationwide study to understand the differences and similarities in learning abilities among individuals with Down syndrome.**



## The Cognition Project: Genetic influences on learning and behavior in individuals with Down syndrome

Unlocking cognitive processes in individuals with Down syndrome.



### What is the goal of the study?

The goal of this study is to understand more about how children with Down syndrome learn and problem solve.

We are also gathering information about certain medical conditions related to Down syndrome to determine how they may affect learning abilities. Finally, we plan to collect DNA samples to identify genes that play a role in these learning pathways. We hope that these findings will lead to possible interventions in the future.

### Will results be shared with participants?

We do not provide individual results as most tests are for research purposes only. We may be able to provide a short summary of the standardized tests. Summary results will be provided to all participants in a newsletter.

### Who can participate in the study?

Individuals with Down syndrome who are between the ages of 6 and 25 years. A short eligibility screen will determine participation.

### What will participants be asked to do for the study?

- Parents will be asked to complete short questionnaires on medical history and their child's adaptive (self-help) skills. These may be completed online.
- Mothers will be asked to complete a 45-minute phone interview covering medical and family history and environmental exposures.
- Participants will provide a small blood sample which can be coordinated with a medically necessary blood draw, and parents will be asked to give a small saliva sample.
- Participants will be asked to attend an in-person (2-2 1/2 hours) testing session. Most of the testing is done on the computer and will seem like computer games.

### Where will the study be conducted?

Children's National Medical Center  
Emory University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Waisman Institute

