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2 October 2001

Dear Parent

We invite you and your child to take part in an exciting project supported by a number of Federal agencies and private organizations. We are in the process of developing several new and novel methods for evaluating children's abilities. These tests are called the *Rochester Test Battery*. The project will determine whether the different tests can detect subtle developmental differences among children. These testing methods could then become the standard used throughout the world for evaluating children who might be at risk for subtle developmental problems

Your child is eligible to participate in this study because he or she graduated from the Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery (NICU) and its follow-up program, the Neonatal Continuing Care Clinic here at Strong Children's Hospital. Children who were in the NICU following their birth are at slightly higher risk for developmental differences. Before writing to you, we informed your pediatrician about the study and that we would be contacting you about participating.

This is a unique opportunity for your child to be part of a group helping to advance medical research. We are calling this group The **KARDs** (*Kids Advancing Research in Development*). Your child can become a KARD member by volunteering to participate in the project. The rewards reach beyond just feeling great about helping others. First, each child will be paid \$40.00 upon completion of the testing. Second, each child will receive a special KARD tee shirt. Third, each child will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to Media Play. In addition, we will cover the costs of parking and lunch on the day or days you and your child are at the Children's Hospital at Strong for testing.

The battery takes about seven hours to complete. As you wish, testing can be done in one day or split into two different weekdays. The battery consists of paper-and pencil cognitive and language tests and computer games that other children have found to be challenging but interesting, comfortable and fun. The battery looks for very slight differences in how children behave, see, hear and respond to challenging situations on a computer. It does not give an IQ or yield a psychological or educational profile. **All responses the child makes are accepted and encouraged. The examiners do not indicate to the child that any answers are incorrect.** We will provide a brief written summary of your child's performance upon request.

We hope you and your child will agree to participate in this novel project. To do so, you can simply read, sign and return the enclosed consent form or call Jean Reeves, our project coordinator at 275-1452. We encourage you to also discuss the project with your Pediatrician. If you have specific questions before agreeing, please feel free to call me at 275-6222, or the project director,

Dr. Philip Davidson at 275-6626. Please mention to whomever answers that you are interested in the KARDS!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Gary J. Myers, M.D.
Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics and
Director, Neonatal Continuing Care Clinic

Summary of the Rochester Battery Project

- Only teens who have been in the NICU are eligible to participate
- The testing consists of fun and interesting items
 - Computer games
 - Piloting skills on a simulator
 - Challenging word games
 - Hearing tests
 - Testing of night vision
 - Physiological tests of attention
- Testing takes about 7 hours, but can be divided into two sessions
- Testing can be arranged to fit you and your child's schedule
- Your child will become part of a special group of kids (KARDS) and on completion of testing they will
 - Feel proud to be helping other children
 - Receive 40\$
 - Receive a special Children's Hospital tee shirt
 - Receive their own one year membership to the Rochester Museum and Science Center

We sincerely hope you will join us in developing the Rochester Test Battery for use with kids around the world.