

## **MRI STUDY OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN WITH VCFS**

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We would like to invite your family's participation in a study of brain development in children with VCFS who are between the ages of 7 and 15 years.

Parents of children with VCFS and medical professionals are aware that some children with VCFS develop psychiatric disorders as they proceed through adolescence and young adulthood. An important goal is to understand how the gene-brain-behavior relations in VCFS can lead to these difficulties. Studies suggest that brain development in children with chromosome 22 deletion may be abnormal, and that those abnormalities may contribute to the behavioral and emotional difficulties that we observe in children with VCFS. We can acquire valuable information about the developing brain with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). An MRI scan provides detailed images of your child's brain, which we can compare to those of other children who do not have the chromosome 22 deletion. By measuring the specific regions of the brain associated with emotion, we can investigate whether differences in brain development contribute to the difficulties we see in children with VCFS.

Children who participate in our study will receive an MRI brain scan, and complete cognitive and neuropsychological standardized testing. Please be assured that no radiation is involved in an MRI scan. Participation will take about one and a half days. Participants who are ages 9 and above will also be invited to return to our research center 3 years later in order to provide follow up information. Any testing done for research purposes only, will be provided at no charge.

Reimbursement for hotel expenses and for a portion of travel expenses will be provided to families that come from out of town. Each child who participates in the study will receive a \$35 voucher good at any store at the Carousel Mall in Syracuse and a picture of their brain! Families will also receive a written report of all tests administered to each child.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:  
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