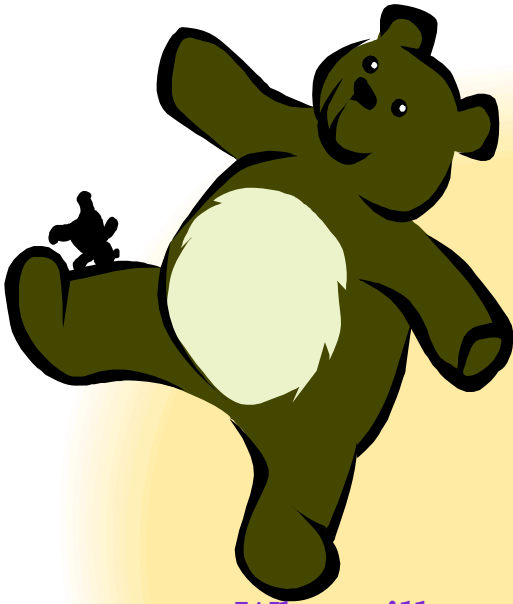


# LENA SPEECH SAMPLING RESEARCH PROJECT

The University of Kansas

Life Span Institute

1052 Dole, Lawrence, KS 66045



**About the project:** In collaboration with the University of Kansas, we are gathering information about the nature of the home language environment of toddlers by testing an innovative, new digital speech recorder called LENA (Language Environment Analysis). We would like to learn more about the communication patterns between infants and toddlers with Down syndrome, and their parents during natural home routines. Participating families will be taught to use the LENA, which slips into the front pocket of custom-made children's overalls. LENA records the amount of child's sounds, babbling, or words and adult words spoken to the child. The software provides graphical feedback of rates of talking that can inform clinicians of vocabulary growth over time. Outcomes of this project have the potential to guide language treatment programs in the home and in early intervention centers.

## What will you be asked to do?

- Schedule 2 home visits with our staff who will administer two standardized developmental language tests to your child
- Provide us with two full day recordings (e.g., all day Saturday and Sunday)
- While LENA is recording, you can go about your daily routine
- One hour of a typical routine in the home will be videotaped (on the same day as a recording day) to allow us to collect a language sample to compare to LENA
- Complete a developmental questionnaire (approx. 20-minutes)
- Complete a post-project 8-item questionnaire regarding your opinions of LENA
- All together, involvement in the project would be over a 1- 2 week period

## Benefits of participating:

- A summary report of the standardized language results for your records
- A report that shows how your amount of talking compares to that considered average for other parents and children of similar age
- You will help increase our understanding of the usefulness of this new technology in describing the home language environment
- You will receive \$50 for your time

## You can participate if:

- Your child has Down syndrome
- Your child is between 8 months to 4 years old
- English is your primary language

**For more information, please call/email  
the Project Coordinator:**

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