

**Invitation to participate in research:
Behavioural and emotional traits in mothers of children with and without autism spectrum disorder**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to let you know about a new research project that will be taking place at the Cerebra Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders in the University of Birmingham, in collaboration with University College London.

We have contacted you through your child's school. Your personal details will not be made known to us unless you decide to take part in the project outlined below.

About the research project:

In this project we aim to further our understanding of behavioural and emotional traits in mothers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and how these might impact on experiences of caring for a child with a neurodevelopmental disorder. To better understand these traits, it is important to also make a comparison with mothers caring for a child without any kind of disability.

What will participation involve?

We are inviting mothers of children with autism and mothers of children without autism, who are under fifty years old, to complete an online questionnaire which will ask you to rate your strengths and weaknesses in a range of everyday scenarios, as well as your preferences, interests and reasoning skills. We will also ask you about your experiences of caring for your child.

How do I take part?

If you are interested in taking part the information sheet, consent form, and the online questionnaire can be accessed via the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/jxmnmb>

The password required on the opening page is: **cerebra**

Following the link does not obligate you to take part.

If you have any questions about the study before deciding whether to take part, or you would like a paper copy of the questionnaires, please do not hesitate to contact us via telephone: 020 7679 1148 or email: j.f.moss@bham.ac.uk

Yours faithfully,
Dr. Jo Moss and Dr. Sarah White.