

**Name of Study:** Adolescent Coping and Perception of Family Functioning in a Family of a Child with Autism

**Location:** University of Michigan School of Nursing

**Eligibility Criteria:** Adolescents 11-20 years of age who have a sibling with autism

**Principal Investigator:** Sally Vliem, MS, RN, CPNP, Doctoral Student University of Michigan School of Nursing

**Contact Information:** Sally Vliem, (269) 387-8195

Dear Parent,

I am writing this letter to offer your child(ren) an opportunity to participate in a research study being conducted for my doctoral dissertation. The purpose of this study is to understand, from the adolescent perspective, the experience of having a sibling with autism. The focus of this study will be to examine the coping strategies used by adolescents who have a sibling with autism and to examine how these coping strategies influence their perception of family functioning. This study will also examine if coping strategies and family functioning are influenced by the self concept of the adolescent and the satisfaction with the sibling relationship. This research study will lay a foundation for further intervention research aimed specifically at adolescents and their family to promote positive coping strategies and healthy family functioning.

This study will take 1 hour minimum to complete and will require a computer and access to the internet. The adolescent will be accessing the study using Survey Monkey, a secure, online survey website. If your adolescent is between 18-20 years of age, they may access the site and complete the consent form which will link them to the survey. If your adolescent is 11-17 years of age, you will need to give consent followed by your adolescent giving their assent. The adolescent will be asked about ways they cope with stress, how they perceive that their family is functioning, how they feel about themselves and how they feel about their relationship with their sibling with autism. For their participation, the adolescent will receive a \$10 Amazon e-gift card. There is no charge to participate in the study.

If you are interested in participating, please access the survey at:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=B8K9IPWkQBW3Xj1bVF2ZPw\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=B8K9IPWkQBW3Xj1bVF2ZPw_3d_3d)

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Sally Vliem  
Doctoral Candidate  
University of Michigan School of Nursing

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