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Posted: Friday, 12 June 2009 5:40AM

Mothers of Autistic Children Sought for National Study

by KYW's Lynne Adkins

Officials conducting a national study on autism hope to sign up 400 area women.

The women must have a child diagnosed with autism and must also be expecting another child. Dr. Craig Newschaffer of Drexel University's School of Public Health is the principal investigator.

He says the researchers will follow the woman through pregnancy to look at genetic and environmental conditions that could cause autism:

"Environmental exposures can range from things like infections and illnesses that can happen to mom during pregnancy. Certain chemicals in the environment are of some concern as are some pesticides that we would like to look at. We're also interested in dietary factors."

The families will be followed for four years. For more information, visit www.earlistudy.org

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