

## Description of Research

Access to Education for Students with Complex Communication Needs  
Researcher: Karen Congram

### Introduction

The purpose of this study is to explore the barriers to full participation and learning for students with complex communication needs (CCN) in Ontario public schools from the point of view of their parents. The researcher is a Laurier graduate student in the Faculty of Education working under the supervision of Dr. Kathleen Clarke. This project has been reviewed and approved by the University Research Ethics Board (REB # 8591) at Wilfrid Laurier University.

In this study, you will be asked to participate in two conversations with the researcher to share your stories about advocating for access to education for your child with CCN. The initial interview will take about one hour to complete. The second interview will take place about one month after the first interview, and may take up to one hour of your time. It will be used to clarify or add to your stories from the first interview. Five parents will be interviewed for this study. They will each have a child with Rett syndrome or Angelman syndrome attending a publicly-funded school in Ontario.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Parent of a child with Rett syndrome or Angelman syndrome
- Child attends a publicly-funded school in Ontario
- Child is 5 – 17 years old

### Privacy and Confidentiality

The interviews will be conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams video conferencing. Conversations with the researcher will be recorded, then transcribed into text form. The recordings will not be used for any additional purposes. All information about you or your child will be de-identified before analysis. Your anonymity will be ensured using pseudonyms for you and your child. The name of your child's school will not be used. Quotations will be used in the final report, but will not contain information that allows you to be identified.

### Risks and Benefits

There are minimal risks associated with this study. The results of this study will add to the body of knowledge about education for students with complex communication needs (CCN). Your participation may provide some of the information needed to make participation in school more accessible for all students.

### How to Participate

If you would like to participate in this study, please contact Karen Congram at [litt1120@mylaurier.ca](mailto:litt1120@mylaurier.ca). The first five eligible participants will be sent a consent form to sign and return. Thank you for your interest!