How do the senses work together in autism? For most people, sight, hearing, and touch all work together to make a whole experience. Do some people with an autism spectrum disorder experience the world differently because of the way their brains combine information from different senses?

Are special interests “addictive” to people with autism? People with an autism spectrum disorder often have a strong interest or hobby, sometimes in an area, or to a degree, that seems unusual to others. What is going on in the brain when a person with autism is thinking about or participating in these strong interests?

We are looking for:

• People from 18 – 50 years with high-functioning autism or Asperger’s syndrome
• With strong or unusual special interests or hobbies (e.g., maps, puzzles, calendars, cartoon characters)

What is involved in this research study?

• Sensory tests (tasks that measure sight, sound, and touch)
• An MRI scan
• Interviews and questionnaires for caregivers and/or volunteers
• Donate a small sample of saliva as a source of DNA

How much time will it take?

• You may qualify to participate in up to three 1 ½ to 3-hour sessions

How will participants be compensated?

• Participants will receive $20 per hour
• Picture of your brain from the MRI scan

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