Faculty member or graduate student
Bridgette Tonnsen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Clinical Psychology

Description of research area
Our lab conducts research on the early development of children with neurodevelopmental disorders in order to identify early markers of risk and resilience in clinical populations. We currently have four ongoing research projects. The first is a longitudinal online survey for families of children with neurogenetic disorders aimed at characterizing early development in areas such as communication, sleep and autism features. The second project is a longitudinal study specifically targeting the emergence of autism symptoms in infants at increased risk for developing autism, such as those with Down syndrome and infants born prematurely. The third is a telehealth study in which we are working in-person with families who have children with Down syndrome in order to develop a method of remote assessment. These remote assessments will then be used to study families of children with rare neurogenetic disorders. The fourth project looks at women with the FMR1 premutation and the role the premutation plays in mental health, with a focus on mood and anxiety disorders.

Description of undergraduate participation
Undergraduate participation may involve a combination of the following:
1. Data management
2. Assisting with assessments of infants
3. Contributing to presentations
4. Coding
5. Professional development activities
6. Independent or team-based research projects and presentations

Research setting
Laboratory

Number of assistants needed
4

Contact information
Please fill out the application listed on our lab website (http://nddfamilylab.weebly.com/) and submit the completed application to Nicole Witthuhn at nwitthuh@purdue.edu

Additional comments
Must have completed PSY 120
Prefer freshmen or sophomores
Due to the advanced training involved with joining the lab, a 2-semester commitment is required. Preference will be given to students who plan to remain in the lab for additional semesters.