An Introspective from Parents of Preschool Children with Autism:

Three sets of parents of a child who has recently been diagnosed with autism will be selected from the San Antonio Autism Society where monthly training sessions are offered.

The participants will be solicited for their experiences and stories during a monthly training session. A consent form will be given to the parents by the researcher after the initial contact. The researcher will explain the consent form, expressing to the participants that they may withdraw from the study at any time and for any reason with no fear of consequences or prejudice from either the institution, Texas State University, or the researcher.

Potential risks are minimal and include a possible unease about the diagnosis of autism in your child. If participants feel uncomfortable or uneasy at any time, they will be given the option to cease participation in the research study. Also, participants will be able to talk to a group of trustees from their organization or a local counseling agency that works closely with the society.

All participants’ input will be kept anonymous and any information that might reveal their identity will not be included in the research results. Names, addresses, telephone numbers, and any other identifiable information will be kept confidential. Personal information will not be included in any data collection procedures. Participants will have an alias in place of their name.

Benefits to participants are minimal. However, knowing that their experiences might help another family may give them an emotional benefit. Also, this research will add to the body of research which will benefit parents, teachers, and administrators as they seek to assist parents who have children with autism while they are learning more about the condition of autism.

The risks to participants are minimal. However, the potential benefits to teachers, administrators, and other parents outweigh the risks. Helping parents to find information about their child’s autism and helping educators to make this information available may reduce the stress level of parents who have recently learned of their child’s autism.

As a doctoral student in School Improvement at Texas State University, I am conducting this research to further improve the experiences of parents who have preschool children recently diagnosed with autism. Dr. Duncan Waite is my supervising faculty member.

This project has been reviewed by this IRB agency in February.

Only Dr. Waite and I will have access to unpublished results.