**Faculty Project Description**

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| **Faculty Name** | **Nicholas A. Smith, Ph.D.** |
| Office Location | Boys Town National Research Hospital |
| Telephone Number | 452-5070 |
| Email Address | Nicholas.Smith@boystown.org |
| Source of Research Support | NIH-NIDCD |

**Overview of Scholarly Research Activities:**

My laboratory conducts research on a number of topics related to auditory and visual development in infants and young children. Using a variety of behavioral methods (i.e., in which we observe infants’ response to audiovisual stimuli) we are examining the development of infants’ ability to detect and discriminate sounds, how infants perceptually segregate sound sources in the environment, as well as the interaction of visual and auditory processes in the perception of multisensory stimuli, such as a talking faces. We are also interested in the role of acoustical and visual information in mother-infant interaction and how patterns of interaction may be affected by hearing loss in young children.

**Basic Skills & Techniques for Undergraduate Students:**

The student will learn to contribute to multiple aspects of ongoing research projects: subject recruitment, parental consent, subject testing, data collection and analysis.

**Prerequisite Classes or Other Experience:**

Some course work in psychology is required. Courses in statistics, sensation and perception, developmental psychology are recommended. Though not required, experience with following would be an asset: digital audio/video, computer programming, graphic design.

**Time Commitment:**

5-10 hours per week. We schedule subjects for testing between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday. However, since infants are generally more amenable to testing in the morning, some morning availability is essential.