We would like to invite you to help with a new study of children's early development, from birth to the age of three. Our study is funded by the Medical Research Council. The aim of the study is to find out how children learn to relate to other people. We are particularly interested to learn why some children have difficulties settling into playgroups and nursery schools. Children who have difficulties getting along with others do less well in primary and secondary school, and later life. To learn why some three-year-olds find it difficult to get along with other children, we must begin early, and study infants' earliest relationships.

The study. We shall ask you to use the recorder to create your own audio diary of your child's development. We are especially interested in the way your child deals with everyday challenges, whether he or she has temper tantrums, and whether he or she has particular difficulties in getting along with other children.

When we make appointments for home visits or birthday parties, we will send you a more detailed fact sheet describing all the procedures that we are using at that time point. You will have a chance to ask any questions that you like, at all points in the study.

How Will This Information Be Used?
All information that we receive from you will be treated as strictly confidential, under the guidelines of Cardiff University, the UK Medical Research Council, and the Data Protection Act. We will give talks and write books and articles that report general findings about children’s development. You or your child will never be identified. Collection of DNA and saliva samples will be done in line with the ethical guidelines of the Medical Research Council.

How Will I Be Compensated For My Time?
We recognise that you and your family will be making a major commitment to our study. To show our appreciation, we will give you £50 of gift vouchers each year, a present for your child at each birthday, and a professionally edited DVD of some highlights from your child's first three years. We will pay for your transportation to the School of Psychology for the birthday parties. You are welcome to keep the small audio recorder for your personal use.

Would You Like to Help?
If you are interested in participating, please complete the attached card. We will then ring you to make an appointment to visit your home. In the meantime, if you want any more information, please do not hesitate to contact Professor Dale Hay, School of Psychology, Cardiff University on 02920 876503 or 02920 876191 (CCDSteam@cardiff.ac.uk).

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. We hope that you will be able to help us with this important study.
Who Is Being Invited to Be in the Study?
We are contacting mothers in South Wales who are expecting their first child.

How Often Will I Be Seen?
- We need to see you every six months until your child is three.
- We will visit your home in the next few weeks and then once a year for the next 3 years (when you baby is 6, 18 and 30 months old).
- You will also visit the School of Psychology, at Cardiff University, once a year for special ‘birthday parties’ with two other mothers and children in the study. The parties will be held when the babies reach their first, second and third birthdays. Free transportation will be provided.
- We will visit you at home once again after your child reaches his or her third birthday.

What Will I Have to Do?
- During your pregnancy, we shall visit your home and interview you and your partner about yourselves, and your feelings about this important time in your life. At this point, because we hope to learn more about the many factors that influence your child’s health and behaviour, we shall ask you to allow us access to the medical records of your pregnancy and your baby’s birth. The genes you pass on to your baby can affect your baby’s temperament, so we will ask you and your baby’s father to provide samples of DNA from a mouthwash. This information will be used only for the purposes of this study.
- After the baby is born, we shall visit you at home every year, beginning when the baby is six months old. We’ll talk with you about your feelings and experiences since the last visit, ask you about the baby’s usual behaviour, watch you playing with the baby, and record the baby’s development. We will make videos at each visit. At 6 months, we will get a sample of your baby’s DNA from saliva. When your child is 1 ½ and 2 ½ years old, we shall ask you to invite another mother and baby to your home, so that we can see how your child relates to a child he or she knows well. After we make an appointment to visit you, we shall post you fact sheets that give you more information about each visit.
- Around the time of your child’s first, second and third birthday, we shall invite three mothers and babies to come to birthday parties’ at the School of Psychology, Cardiff University, Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3 AT. The parties will allow us to see how the babies cope with a new situation, where they meet people they have never met before and play unfamiliar games. The parties will be enjoyable, festive occasions. However, because we are interested in whether some babies find new situations somewhat difficult, we shall take samples of your baby’s saliva before and after each party. This will allow us to find out how challenging the babies find new situations to be. Because we need to compare the response to the parties with your child’s normal response to everyday routines, we will also ask you to collect samples of your child’s saliva in the week preceding the birthday party at age 3.
- Finally, after your child turns three, we shall visit your home to interview you, in confidence, about any difficult behaviour your child might be showing, or any emotional problems he or she might be experiencing.
- We understand that children develop rapidly, and that their behaviour during the home visits or birthday parties may not always reflect everyday reality. Because you have a unique window on your own child’s development, we plan to give you an audio tape recorder to use throughout the course of...