





# EARLY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STUDY

2008 Newsletter

## Stay in Touch!

We appreciate your continued participation in the study. Please call us if you move or change your phone number, and we will send you a \$15 bonus. You can reach us toll-free at 1-866-203-5165. We look forward to scheduling your next interview. Happy Holidays and Best Wishes to you in 2009!

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## Greetings

Welcome to the first edition of our annual newsletter! We look forward for this opportunity to share information with you and update you about the progress of the study.

## About the Study

The Early Growth and Development Study is a research study of birth parents and adoptive families that was initially funded by a 5-year grant in 2002. During those 5 years (Phase I), we had the opportunity to meet 529 birth mothers, 153 birth fathers, and 384 adoptive families. At the conclusion of Phase I, we were awarded another 5-year grant to recruit additional birth parents and adoptive families (The Early Growth and Development Study-Phase II). The funding agencies believe that our unique and valuable study will continue to educate professionals in the field of child development and those providing adoption services. We hope that you have enjoyed your experience in the study so far. We know how busy everyone can be and appreciate the time you have given to our research!

For The Early Growth and Development Study-Phase II, we began visiting birth parents and adoptive families in December 2007. Since then, our interview team has traveled the country to meet with over 150 birth parents and 50 adoptive families across 33 states. (See the map inside, which outlines the states where the participants reside.) We will update this map in the newsletter each year so you can see how the study is growing.

This study is a large, collaborative project between The Pennsylvania State University, George Washington University, the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and the Oregon Social Learning Center. The lead scientist at each research site has unique expertise. Each year, the newsletter will provide you with information about the types of research being conducted at each of the sites and the background and research interests of the lead investigator at that site. We will also introduce you to members of our recruitment and interview team, whom you might meet during your participation in the study. In this first edition, we would like to introduce you to the lead site: The Pennsylvania State University (see inside).

## In the News

In August, our first scientific paper was published from the data collected during The Early Growth and Development Study-Phase I. The publication prompted some press by a National Public Radio reporter living near San Francisco, who interviewed Dr. Leslie Leve and one of the study's participating California adoption agencies. In addition, *Adoptive Families* magazine wrote an article that included some of the data on openness from Phase I of our study in their September/October issue. Links to these reports and articles can be found on our website.

## Website

We recently launched our new website. For more information about the study, biographies and pictures of our staff, and links to additional resources, please visit us at [www.earlydev.psu.edu](http://www.earlydev.psu.edu)