

How to write a Lay Summary for your website

Parents of autistic children in Europe have positive attitudes towards research involving babies who might be autistic.

We asked 1040 parents who have a child on the autism spectrum about their attitudes to research. Specifically we asked them about research with babies who don't yet have a diagnosis of autism, but who are more likely to be autistic because they have an older, autistic brother or sister.

Parents with an autistic child are central to these studies, because they decide whether to get involved. It's important to find out their opinions on this work, so we can make it easy to take part, ethical, and useful.

In our sample, from 11 European countries, attitudes were positive overall, and parents valued the scientific goals of research. We also learned about what parents want when it comes to the types of research they would be happy to take part in.

The findings of this work can influence how researchers design their studies, and also provide an example of how to involve the community in research.

Start by stating your main finding clearly. This is the key thing most people want to know about your study

Describe the method that underpinned that key finding, ideally in a single sentence

Now you can add a bit more methodological detail, to help readers understand more about what you did.

This is where I would describe why you were interested in this question. It comes in the middle – much later than a normal abstract

Repeat your main finding and add a bit more info. It is OK to leave out some of the detail, especially if you're worried about mis-representing what you found.

Finish by stating why your research is important and how it will contribute to changing things in the future.

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Based on this original article: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1362361317728436>

Inspired by Nature: <https://www.nature.com/documents/nature-summary-paragraph.pdf>

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