

## **The Adapted Cognitive Assessment Lab**

The University of Michigan

Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

<http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/acal/index.htm>

The University of Michigan and Mary Freebed Rehabilitation Hospital are offering opportunities for children with Cerebral Palsy to participate in a literacy research study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Traditional methods of testing cognition and learning often are not accessible to children with severe physical and speech impairments; this is especially true for children with Cerebral Palsy (CP). Many conventional, standardized tests that are conducted in a school setting or traditional clinical setting may not provide accurate information about a child's abilities because the child must be able to either speak or point to answer questions. Our team of investigators recognizes that accurate test information is critical for a child's education and life planning. The Adapted Neuropsychological Assessment of Children (ANAC) study has been developed to address this need through alternate testing methods and the use of assistive technology (AT) (<http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/acal/acn.htm>). An important benefit of this research has been to provide parents and educators with a more accurate and well-rounded profile of a child's abilities. Other current ACAL research projects include new ways of assessing a child's processing speed (<http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/acal/speed.htm>) and a pilot study of a model Educational Liaison service (<http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/acal/liaison.htm>).

Our research continues to focus on the implications of developing independence for children with CP through the development of choice-making skills as a means of communication. The ACAL Team's goals are to develop assessments that provide parents and educators with a more accurate and well-rounded profile of each child's individual *abilities*. Through collaborative efforts and the results of the ACAL testing, we hope to foster appropriate supports in school, home and community settings for children with CP. Visit the ACAL website at <http://www.med.umich.edu/pmr/acal/index.htm> for information and resources, and for opportunities for participating in various research projects. To inquire for more information e-mail [ANAC-Project@med.umich.edu](mailto:ANAC-Project@med.umich.edu) or call 734-936-6023 or 734-936-6604.