

Creating a revolutionary research facility: ToddlerLab, Birkbeck, University of London

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Bisset Adams was commissioned by Birkbeck, University of London to develop designs for the Centre for Brain & Cognitive Development (CBCD), Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab in Torrington Square.

The British Medical Association (BMA) estimates that around 700,000 people in the UK have a diagnosis of autism and that one in 100 children in the UK have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Early identification of this type of developmental condition can be challenging: historically, children and young people have had to wait longer to start the journey towards a diagnosis. In some cases, it can take up to two years to achieve, while the professional team observe and assess a child's communication, social interaction and play across a range of settings including home, nursery or school*.

The development of the world's first ToddlerLab (Wohl Wolfson ToddlerLab) at the Centre for Brain & Cognitive Development (CBCD) - Birkbeck, University of London is therefore an important step in the right direction.

Located in London's Bloomsbury area, it will provide a much needed new laboratory space equipped to undertake ground breaking research in child development, autism, and other behavioural conditions, taking physiological measurements in children at a much younger age than previously achievable.

The unique research building incorporates laboratories and associated spaces required to accommodate toddlers and their families. It contains a series of real world environments, such as home,

Location: London
Scope: New build
Brief: Specialist ToddlerLab to assess brain and cognitive development
Floor area (GIA): 460 sq m
Sustainability: BREEAM Rating Excellent
Completion date: August 2020

Architect: Bisset Adams
Structural Engineer: Webb Yates
M&E Engineer: MKP Consulting
QS: Gardiner & Theobald
PM: Gardiner & Theobald
Contractor: 8Build Ltd



1 photo © Agnese Sanvito

2 photo © Agnese Sanvito

(*Source: <https://www.beyondautism.org.uk/about-autism/understanding-autism/diagnosis/>)