

# The Toddler Lab, Birkbeck University of London.



Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

A well- attended visit to the worlds' first Toddler Lab.



We were shown round the building by Zoe Lawrence from Bisset Adams and Leslie Tucker and Paola Pinta from the Toddler Lab.

A series of labs carrying out research on autism and other development conditions in children located over a number of floors in a Grade 2 listed Georgian building in the heart of the London University Campus, Bloomsbury.

One in 100 people in the UK have autism.

Together with their families, this means autism is a part of daily life for 2.8 million people.

‘Identifying the early signs of developmental conditions like autism makes it possible to design earlier and more effective interventions that can help enhance the lives of these children and their families. These leading discoveries also help us inform policy that can influence how the healthcare and education sectors identify and support these children.’



The Toddler Lab using sophisticated wireless technology allows toddlers to be toddlers while tracking their brain activity and monitoring their behavior.

The children can be observed in a number of settings allowing a professional team to gather data and understand the condition more fully.

An exciting example of the cutting-edge technology in the Toddler Lab is a virtual environment known as the “CAVE”;

which simulates real-world surroundings, such as a farm or a supermarket, and monitors how toddlers’ brain activity changes depending on the world around them.

The building provides new well-equipped laboratories with associated spaces to accommodate toddlers and their family.

A well-considered palette of colours and lighting has been used throughout the building to reduce distractions for the children and create a welcoming and calming environment for the toddlers and supports the work of the academic staff.

The visit was a great success.

Many thanks to Birkbeck University of London for hosting the event and Bisset Adams for organizing the event and for providing the drinks.



**BISSET  
ADAMS**

View the building case study [here](#) (extended version for HEDQF members only). Non-members can view the summary version [here](#).