What is Clinical Research?

- It’s an experiment involving people
- Does a new treatment or cure work?
- Does a new lab test work?
- It may work, but is it safe?
- Clinical research leads to better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat disease
**WHO PARTICIPATES?**

- Volunteer are called “human subjects”
- Sometimes volunteers have a disease that is being studied
- Sometimes volunteers just help find new cures
Is It Safe?

• Strict rules protect the safety of research volunteers
• Experiments must follow safety rules, or they are not approved.
• Since what is being studied is new, there might be unexpected side effects
• Volunteers are closely monitored to make sure they are not harmed.
What is “Informed Consent”

• Researchers must explain to volunteers any risks and use language that the volunteer understands

• Volunteers are then asked to sign a form (Informed Consent Form) to show they understand the experiment and risks

• Never sign up for a study, unless you understand

• Volunteers can always ask questions if they don’t understand
What is a “Control Group”? 

• The group that does not get the new treatment or test being studied 
• In this experiment, that is the group eating only the cookie
What Is an “Experimental Group”? 

• The group that gets the new treatment or test being studied

• In our experiment, that’s the group eating the carrot after the cookie
**What is a “Blind Study”?**

It’s a blind study…

- when the volunteers do not know who got the new treatment, and who was in the control group

  - OR -

- when the researcher does not know who got the new treatment, and who was in the control group

If volunteers and researchers don’t know who got the treatment and who is in the control group, it’s called a “Double Blind Study”