

RESEARCH PROJECT
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**Title:** Speaker-controlled Variability in Children's Speech in Interaction

**Website:** <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/psychlangsci/research/speech/clear-speech-strategies>

*This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee*

**Project ID Number:** 0534/002

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### INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

*We would like you to take part in our research project. You should only agree to take part if you want to, and it will not be a problem at all if you decide you do not want to. Before you decide whether you want to do this, it is important for you to read the following information carefully. Please ask us if there is anything not clear or if you would like more information.*

**Purpose of study:** The aim of the study is to try and understand how children of your age change the way they speak when someone has problems understanding them. This can happen for example if you are having a chat in a noisy sports hall at school, or if you are speaking to a school friend who is deaf. We understand how grownups make their speech clearer in such situations but we know less about how children do this. We hope that this study will help scientists to understand this better.

#### **What will happen during the study?**

**How long will it take:** There will be two sessions of approximately two hours. You can do these on different days, or you can decide to do one in the morning and one in the afternoon of the same day.

For this study, your parent/guardian will bring you to our research laboratory in central London with a friend. We will record your speech while you and your friend play a 'spot the difference' picture game together. You will first be shown an example of the type of picture that will be used in the game. These are coloured pictures of beach, farm or street scenes. You will have to work with your friend to find the twelve differences between the two pictures, without seeing your friend's picture.

You will then be shown the recording rooms where you will each be sitting. The two rooms are next to each other and each have a desk and a chair. During the recordings, you will wear a pair of headphones with a microphone attached to it, and you and your friend will have to describe your pictures to each other to work out what the differences are. You will have to do this three times in total. The first time, you will hear your friend speaking normally. The second time, you will hear your friend but his/her speech will sound really odd, and after a while we switch the roles. The third time, you will hear your friend as if she/he were talking in a crowded room (again you switch roles through the game).

A researcher will be outside the room and will be listening to you and your friend chatting while the recording is going on.

It should take you around 10 minutes to find the 12 differences in each picture, and you will be able to take a break and have a drink between each of the three picture games. Don't worry if you can't find all of the differences.

After a short break, we will ask you to do a short 'picture naming' task by yourself. Here, you will be sitting in the same room in front of a computer screen and you will have to repeat the name of the object that you see on the screen. You will have to name each of the objects several times. You'll also be asked to play a computer game where you have to decide what word you heard against a noisy background. Finally, we will test your hearing with a pure tone audiometer, a common audiological test where you listen through headphones and say if you can hear a beep. The order in which you'll do these tasks and recordings may be slightly different from this.

We will be very careful to avoid you feeling uncomfortable. The headphones are lightweight and comfortable to wear and the room you will be in is light and airy, and air-conditioned. The only potential risk is that you might hear some loud sounds through the headphones by accident, but we will check the levels carefully before you do the game to avoid this happening.

Your name will not be on the recordings, and they will only be used for research work. We will ask you if we can make these recordings available to other researchers in other universities. You can participate in the study, even if you don't want other researchers to use these recordings.

It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to take part. If you decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and you will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you can still decide to stop at any time before or during the recording session, without having to say why.

Thank you for being interested in this.