

Skills Underlying Maths

You are being invited to take part in a research project investigating the skills that are involved when children and adults learn and perform mathematics. Before you decide whether to take part it is important to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Please ask the investigator if there is anything you do not understand or if you would like further information.

What is the study about?

When solving maths problems not only do we need to know how to add, subtract, multiply and divide, but we also need to be able to focus on the problem, store answers in our head and ignore unnecessary extra information. These general skills are important for lots of tasks but seem to be particularly important in maths. This study is looking at how general abilities such as memory, attention and ignoring irrelevant information are involved in learning and doing maths. We are interested in which general abilities are important for different types of maths (such as knowing arithmetic facts, using different procedures and understanding relationships, for example between addition and subtraction).

Practicalities

You will be asked to complete a number of different tasks. Some will be simple maths tasks, and others will be games or puzzles used to measure general skills. We will also measure your IQ. This will involve one session of up to 2 hours and will take place in the School of Psychology. All information collected will be confidential and used for research purposes only. The data will be anonymised using a code number. The results of the study will be prepared for publication in academic journals and copies of these articles will be available upon request.

We hope that you feel able to help us with this study. If at any time you decide that you do not want to continue to take part in the study, you are free to withdraw. You can withdraw at any time, for any reason and you will not be asked to explain your reasons for withdrawing. If you would like to discuss anything further, before or after the study, please contact us at the phone number or email address below.

Who is conducting this study?

This study is part of a research project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The principal investigators are Dr Lucy Cragg (University of Nottingham) and Dr Camilla Gilmore (Loughborough University). If you have any more questions please contact us using the details given below.



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INFORMED CONSENT FORM

The purpose and details of this study have been explained to me. I understand that this study is designed to further scientific knowledge and that all procedures have been approved by the University of Nottingham Ethical Advisory Committee.

I have read and understood the information sheet and this consent form.

I have had an opportunity to ask questions about my participation.

I understand that I am under no obligation to take part in the study.

I understand that I have the right to withdraw from this study at any stage for any reason, and that I will not be required to explain my reasons for withdrawing.

I understand that all the data I provide will be treated in strict confidence and will be anonymised and kept securely.

I agree to participate in this study.

Your name

Your signature

Signature of researcher

Date
