**Parent/Guardian Information Sheet**

**What is the purpose of this study?**

This study will investigate children’s decision making and their feelings following their choices.

**What will participation involve?**

If you give consent for your child to participate, they will be invited to play a decision making game using sets of boxes. Inside each box are number of points that children will win, at the end of the game they will swap their points for a small prize.

The game will be played between 8 and 16 times. Each time the child plays they will be shown two boxes and will be asked to pick one in order to win some points. Children will be shown the number of points in both the chosen and unchosen box and will be asked to rate how they feel about their box choice. Participation will take approximately 15 minutes.

At the end of the game children will swap their points for a small party bag containing age appropriate toys (a bouncy ball, an eraser, a stretchy man, a mini jigsaw puzzle and a mini board game).

**How will participant information be stored?**

Consent forms will be stored in a private file, in a locked filing cabinet, in a secure room. Only the investigator will have access to this file. Each child will be allocated an identifier number, all data files will be labelled according to the identifier number. Therefore the identity of each child will not be apparent to anyone other than the investigator. The data collected will include children’s responses regarding their feelings and decision making during the game. Verbal answers will be noted during the game and later transcribed. The notes will then be destroyed. All of your child's verbal interactions will be **CONFIDENTIAL**. This data will be saved on an encrypted drive on a password protected computer.

**Where will the findings be published?**

The study may also be published in academic journals. The responses provided by your child will be combined with data from other children and reported in group form only. There will be no way to identify your child and his or her individual responses in the report. You may request a copy of the study report upon completion.

**Are there any risks?**

Mild regret may be induced as children sometimes the unselected box will have a greater number of points. If mild regret is experienced, it will only last momentarily. I have tried to minimise any potential negative feelings by ensuring that each child will win a prize during the game. If any child becomes unduly upset they will be comforted and the study will be stopped. Every child will leave with the same prize, even if the study has to be stopped prematurely. This study has received ethical approval from the Psychology Research Ethics Committee Queen’s University Belfast.

**Right to refuse/withdraw**

Your child's involvement in this study is completely **VOLUNTARY**. Even if you give consent, you may change your mind at any point prior to your child taking part. You may also request that any data collected from your child be withdrawn and destroyed up to a month after they have participated in the study. Your child has the right, at the time during the study, to refuse to answer any or all questions without explanation and without penalty. In addition, each child will be asked if they wish to participate in the study. Only children with a signed and returned consent form, and who have verbally confirmed their assent will be invited to participate in this study. If any child looks uncomfortable during the game the study will be stopped. Every child will leave with a prize, even if the study has to be stopped prematurely.

**Contact details**

If you have any questions about the study, or wish to discuss it further please do not hesitate to contact me:

Eimear O’Connor, PhD

School of Psychology

David Keir Building

Queen’s University Belfast

18-30 Malone Road

Belfast

BT9 5BP

028 90975655

[e.oconnor@qub.ac.uk](mailto:e.oconnor@qub.ac.uk)

Thank you for your consideration.

Eimear O’Connor