



**INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN A LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT STUDY**

6 October 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in participating in our longitudinal study on the relationship between the language children hear from their parents/carers and the language they acquire.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to contribute to the project with speech recordings collected in your home on three occasions over the course of one year: when your child is 9 months, 15 months and 21 months. At each data collection, you will be also asked to fill out a questionnaire about your child's language development.

All information about you and your child will be protected and kept confidential, and your and your child's anonymity will be maintained in all published and written data resulting from the study.

For your commitment, you will receive high street vouchers and a copy of the questionnaire about your child's language development so that you can remember in years to come what your child could say and understand at various developmental stages.

You can email me at [ndavies2@staffmail.ed.ac.uk](mailto:ndavies2@staffmail.ed.ac.uk) if you require any further information.

Thank you for your time and interest!

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Davies-Jenkins  
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Edinburgh Laboratory for Language Development (ELfLanD)  
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## **Frequently asked questions about our project**

**Q: Who are you and what is the study about?**

A: We are a team of researchers at the University of Edinburgh, interested in child language development. The goal of this project is to better understand what information matters to young infants in the early stages of word learning and whether the language children hear in their homes influences their language development.

**Q: How will you learn about what matters in child language development?**

A: We will record the language children hear in their homes from their parents, carers or other adults and children.

**Q: How will you record the language we use at home? I don't have a recording device. Will you be around for days?**

A: If you agree to participate, our research assistant will come to your home on three different occasions over the course of one year, when your child is 9 months, 15 months and 21 months. She will show you how to use the recording device and to answer any of your questions. She will also go over a parental questionnaire that you will be asked to fill out. Once you are comfortable and confident that you can do the recordings, she will leave you and come back in a few days time to collect the recorded speech and the recording equipment, and to go over any questions.

**Q: What do I need to do?**

A: You will be asked to commit to the project for one year, and record the speech in your home when your child is 9 months, 15 months and 21 months. You will arrange with the research assistant a mutually convenient time. Our research assistant will be in touch to schedule the appointments and to keep you informed of the project.

**Q: Do I need to commit to participate for the whole year?**

A: Yes, we are looking for parents/carers that will be available for the whole year and contribute with a recording every six months (when your child is 9-, 15-, and 21-months). This long-term commitment is a very important component of the study without which we would not be able to understand language development at different ages.

**Q: You will start collecting data when my child is 9 months old. She is now 8 months and she still does not say or does not seem to understand any words. Can we still participate?**

A: Yes. We are interested in the language that adults and other children use around young infants and how what we say might change over the course of a year and how it might influence child language development.

**Q: How long will the recordings be?**

A: Ideally, we would like to collect about 90 minutes of recorded speech per session. At the end of the project when we have data from all three sessions we would like to have 270 minutes of recorded data from each child.

**Q: I am not sure I can talk to my child for 90 minutes. It feels too long.**

A: You do not need to make the recording in one session of 90 minutes. You can spend less time per recording as long as the recordings are at least 15 minutes per interaction. So, for example, you might do six different recordings at 9-month, each 15 minutes long. But you may have only four recordings at 15-month, each of different length, from 15 minutes to 30 minutes; and there might be three different recordings at 21-months, 30 minutes each.

**Q: Will it be a problem if the recordings are longer than 90 minutes?**

A: No, longer recordings are not a problem.

**Q: Do I need to do the recordings in one day?**

A: No, you can do the recordings over the course of a few days while you keep the recording equipment.

**Q: Do I need to speak directly into the microphone during each recording?**

A: No. The microphone is going to be located near you and your child. You can do what you usually do when you closely interact with your child. The context of the interaction is your choice as long as it is one of the usual activities your child is involved in.

**Q: Will I receive a reminder before each session?**

A: Yes, Nicola Davies-Jenkins will contact you before each session to arrange a suitable time for the recordings.

**Q: Who do I contact if I have any questions about the project?**

A: You can contact Nicola Davies-Jenkins at [ndavies2@staffmail.ed.ac.uk](mailto:ndavies2@staffmail.ed.ac.uk). You can also get in touch with the principal investigator on the project, Dr. Mits Ota at [mits@ling.ed.ac.uk](mailto:mits@ling.ed.ac.uk) or Dr. Barbora Skarabela at [barbora@ling.ed.ac.uk](mailto:barbora@ling.ed.ac.uk).

**Thank you for your time!**

**PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

I have read the enclosed information and **I would like** to take part in the study with my child.

CHILD'S NAME: .....

CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH: .....

GENDER: .....

YOUR NAME: .....

CONTACT DETAILS (please provide at least one contact):

E-mail:.....

Telephone number:.....

I understand that my child and I will be audio-recorded during the study and I will provide information about my child's development in a questionnaire. **I give permission for** [please tick as appropriate]:

- research using the recorded data and questionnaire responses to be published or presented in lectures.
- questionnaire response data to be shared with the UK CDI project (a UK wide study on children's learning of words and gestures).
- anonymised transcripts of the recording to be shared with researchers outside Edinburgh.
- anonymised audio recordings to be shared with researchers outside Edinburgh.

I understand that all information will be protected and kept confidential, and our anonymity will be maintained in all published work from the study as well as any data sharing as described above. My name, my child's name and other personal details will never be disclosed.

DATE:.....

SIGNATURE:.....

(Parent / Guardian)

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**THANK YOU!**

*Longitudinal study on child language development*

**Recording log**

Please enter information about each recording so that we know who is talking to/with the child.

EXAMPLES

| Date       | Approximate duration | Brief description of the context                                    |
|------------|----------------------|---|
| 13/11/2013 | 20 min               | Mum and child playing with toy bricks in the lounge.                |
| 14/11/2013 | 15 min               | Granny talking to child on lap. In the kitchen. Mum is present too. |

| Date | Approximate duration | Brief description of the context |
|------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
|      |                      |                                  |

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| Date | Approximate duration | Brief description of the context |
|------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
|      |                      |                                  |