

## Skills Underlying Maths

In partnership with researchers from Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham, your child's school are taking part in a study investigating the skills involved in learning and doing maths. We would like to invite your child to be part of this study. However, before you decide whether or not you want your child to take part, it is important that you understand why the study is being carried out and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information and discuss it with other family members. If anything is unclear or if you would like more information, then please contact us before deciding whether or not to take part. This study has been reviewed and approved by the Loughborough University Ethical Advisory Committee.

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

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 learning in lots of areas but seem to be particularly important in maths. This study is looking at how the ability to remember verbal and visual information is involved in addition. This research is important for understanding how best to support all children in learning maths.

### **Why has my child been chosen?**

Your child's head teacher and school are helping with this project. They have circulated this information sheet to parents of children who might be willing to take part in the study.

### **Do they have to take part?**

It is up to you and your family to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, we will ask you to sign a form giving consent for your child to take part. Anyone who signs a form is still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part, will not affect your child's education in any way.

### **What will happen if I give permission for my child to take part?**

A researcher would come to see your child at school for two sessions lasting up to half an hour each. During this time your child would be asked to answer some simple sums presented on a laptop computer while listening and responding to some words or watching and responding to some shapes.

The study would take some time out of your child's school day. However, we will work closely with staff at the school to make sure our visits fit in around classroom routines. We will also give everyone regular breaks and do our best to make the computer games fun and interesting, and to make the whole experience enjoyable. We would not force anyone to carry on if they did not want to.

### **What happens to the results of the research study?**

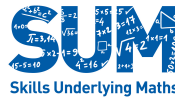
The information we collect is kept strictly confidential. We would not give it to anyone else without written consent from you. Test results are identified by a code number only, and kept in a locked filing cabinet at the University. We plan to publish the findings in a scientific journal, although this can take two to three years from the end of the study. We will also send the findings of the study to your child's school. We are unable to give individual feedback about children's performance.

### **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 Camilla Gilmore (Loughborough University) and Dr Lucy Cragg (University of Nottingham). If you have any more questions please contact us using the details given below.

### **What should I do next?**

Please fill in the enclosed form and return it to your child's class teacher if you are willing for your child to take part in this study.



# INFORMED CONSENT FORM

- **If you are happy for your child to take part, please fill in the form below and return it to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.**
- To find out more about the project, please read the attached information sheet. You can also contact Sophie Richardson ([sophie.richardson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.richardson@nottingham.ac.uk) Tel: 0115 8467362) if you have any questions.

**Email:**