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| **THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD** | |  |
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Date: 14th June 2016

**INFORMATION SHEET:**

**How Parents Can Help Babies Learn to Talk With Picture Books**

Researchers: Dr Danielle Matthews, Dr Michelle McGillion & Kiera Solaiman

Please take the time to read the following information and ask us if there is anything that is unclear or if you would like more information. Thank you for your interest.

**What is the project’s purpose?**

We want to understand how babies learn to talk and whether it’s possible to help them learn.

**Why have I been chosen?**

We are recruiting 120 families across Sheffield and the surrounding region with babies turning 11 months old before December 2017.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and asked to sign a consent form. After signing this, you are still free to withdraw from the study at any time. Once you have completed participation, your data will be stored on secure computers at the University of Sheffield. You can ask to have this data deleted at any time without giving a reason.

**What will happen if I take part?**

When your baby is 11 months old, a researcher will visit you at home. The visit will last approximately 1 hour and we will arrange it at a time that is convenient for you. You will be asked to complete several questionnaires covering general background information, your child’s health and development and your activities and thoughts as a parent. In the second half of the visit we will video record you and your infant looking at a picture book together for 10 minutes. You will be given some more picture books to read over the following month.

When your baby is 15 months old, we’ll ask you to visit the university together. We can provide parking near the building if you need it and a researcher will meet you when you arrive. We will ask you to sit with your child as they look at some pictures while hearing everyday words. We might also ask you to look at a picture book with your child if you are both comfortable doing this. The visit should take no longer than an hour.

**What do I have to do?**

You will need to be available for a researcher to visit you when your child is 11 months and to come to the university when your child is 15 months old. On the first visit, we will give you some picture books and ask you to look at them with your child. We will ask you to participate in a video recorded session with your child and to complete questionnaires. Some of these will relate to your child’s health and development, others will be about family details and experiences.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

Taking part in this study should not harm your child in any way. If, having completed questionnaires, you feel concerned about your wellbeing or your child’s development, we recommend you seek advice from your GP since the staff collecting data for this study are not clinically trained. If you have any concerns about the research project, please contact the project leader Dr Danielle Matthews or the Head of the Psychology Department, Professor Paul Overton (see below for contact details).

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

It is hoped that this work will contribute to our knowledge of children’s development and be a positive experience for you and your child. You will be able to keep the books given to you for the study. We will also give you a £30 gift voucher as a contribution towards your travel expenses to and from the university.

**Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

All your data (the videos, questionnaires and measures of child language that we collect during this study) will be stored under your participant number on password protected secure servers. The file linking your name to your participant number will be stored separately on a secure server in a password protected folder accessed only by the researchers on this study. Your data will be stored indefinitely and you can ask to have your data deleted at any point by contacting Danielle Matthews or Michelle McGillion. You do not have to give any reason for wanting to have your data deleted.

You can give **additional consent** to make your anonymised data (i.e., everything but the video recordings since these cannot be fully anonymised) available to other researchers outside Sheffield via a separate consent form. If you do this, your data will be uploaded to the UK data archive and cannot be deleted afterwards. You do not have to give consent to this in order to take part in the study.

**What will happen to the results of the research project?**

This research is interested in how children in general develop and we will analyse the data for the children participating as a group. We will publish the results in a peer-reviewed journal. You will not be able to be identified in any reports or publications. We cannot give individual feedback about your child’s development. We will, however, be happy to send you a summary of the study findings when the study is complete.

**Who has ethically reviewed the project?**

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee, University of Sheffield.

If you have further questions regarding this study, please feel free to contact:

Dr. Danielle Matthews Dr Michelle McGillion

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**Please keep a copy of this information sheet and a signed consent form for your records.**