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| **THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD** | | |  |
| Department of Psychology  **Supporting children’s school readiness.** | Psychology Building  Western Bank Sheffield  S10 2TP  Tel: 0114 222 6520 |



Date: 20th July 2016

Researchers: Danielle Matthews, Catherine Davies, Kiera Solaiman, Michelle McGillion,

Please take the time to read the following information carefully 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 what factors affect children’s school readiness and how to help parents prepare for the transition to primary school.

**Why have I been chosen?**

We are recruiting 120 families across Sheffield and the surrounding region with children turning 4 years 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 destroyed at any time without needing to give a reason.

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

This study has two parts. For the first part, 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 some questionnaires covering general background information and your child’s health and development. We will collect an audio recording (just as we have at previous stages) and ask you to sign a consent form separately for this. We will then ask you to read a book with your child. If you are comfortable doing so, this will be video recorded. You will then be given some more books to look at over the following month.

The second visit will happen a month later, and 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 complete some standard tests of child development that are designed to be fun. 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 at home when your child is approx. 4 years 3 months and to come to the university a month later. We will ask you to participate in a video recorded session with your child and to complete questionnaires. In between the two visits, we will ask you to do a daily preschool activity with your child. We will ask you to keep a brief diary recording your impressions of this experience.

**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 child’s development, we recommend you seek advice from your GP. If you have any concerns about the research project, please contact the project leader Dr Danielle Matthews.

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

It is hoped that this work will contribute to our knowledge of children’s health and development and be a positive experience for you and your child. To thank you for participating, you will be able to keep the books given to you for the study. By way of contribution towards your travel expenses to the university, you will be given £40.

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

All your data (the videos, audio recording, questionnaires and measures of child language that we collect about during the course of the research) 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 password protected folder accessed only by the researchers on this study. For the audio recording that you do over one day, you can give consent either 1) to having the recoding automatically analysed only; 2) also consent to having the recording listened to by a researcher or 3) neither of these options in which case the recording is deleted from the device and not processed. The automatic analysis of recordings simply counts how many times anyone made a vocalisation on the recording for the day (but not what they said). 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 theses 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 analyses 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:

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