**Appendix D – Script for Maths Caregiver Training Video**

*(Researcher to camera)*

Thank you for taking part in this study of school readiness. As your child starts to go to school you will get lots of advice about how to help them learn, how to keep them healthy and it’s not always obvious what’s good advice and what is just opinion. So, at the University of Sheffield we’re interested in testing, what is good advice, what really works, what helps children learn. But to do that we really need the help of lots of families in the local area and we’re incredibly grateful that you volunteered to take part in this study.

When your child starts school they’re going to start to learn to about maths. This involves all sorts of things, like learning to count things, so counting out marbles for example; learning to recognise written numbers for example the number ‘7’ picking that out amongst other numbers; learning concepts like ‘more than’ and ‘less than’; learning about shapes and patterns and even starting to do simple addition and subtraction. There’s not a lot of research about how we can help children feel confident when they start school so they enjoy doing maths and so that later on they find it easy, later in their school life.

And that’s what we’d like to do with this study. We’d like to research how we can help children to be confident when they go to school and enjoy maths.

*(Researcher voiceover interspersed with supporting stills)*

There are lots of ways that we can do this but some ideas are that we could help children become familiar with the words that we use in maths lessons, so just the number words, “one, two, three, four, five” and so on. Words like ‘more than’ and ‘less than’, adding and things like that.

There are lots of ways that we can do that in everyday life, for example if you’re walking up the stairs together we could count them as you go up “one, two, three, four”. At dinner we could talk about who has more peas on their plate. So it doesn’t need to be formal learning at all. The idea is just to become familiar with these words and feel confident with maths so that when you start learning at school it doesn’t feel alien or threatening.

*(Researcher to camera)*

There are even some books that might help children get to grips with things like counting. This is one that we’ve found, it’s called “At Home with Counting” and we think it might just help children become familiar with numbers and with the basic concepts of counting so that when they go to school this feels like something the know how to do and they’ll be happy doing it. So there are lots of different pages, counting the numbers up to 10 and then towards the ends there are things like number bonds, that children learning when they go to school, that’s basically adding, more than and less than and taking away. And so what we’d like to do if you are willing is to spend a little bit of time everyday just doing one page with your child. Obviously, some days that won’t be possible and some days you’ll do more than one. But we think doing little and often, so spaced learning, may be more helpful. Certainly, you’d want to stop before they really didn’t want to do it anymore because the whole idea is to build confidence and make it fun.

So this is your book to keep, we don’t need to get it back from you. We’ll give you a diary though so if you could manage to fill it in to let us know which days you managed to do a page or more and which days you didn’t and any comments about how you found it that would be great too. We’ll collect those in at the end of the month. Doing a page a day should take less than a month so hopefully that is doable. We really think that this kind of activity might help to boost your child’s confidence before they go to school and we’d love to hear your thoughts on it.

Thanks ever so much again for taking part in this study.