

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS/CARERS****Numer8ED: Cross-format number integration and its relationship to mathematics performance**

**Researchers:** Dr Francina Clayton, Clare Copper, Erin Dysart, Philippa Gibbons, Rebecca Lowndes, Rebecca Reed, Federico Trotvil Nossa (*Supervisor/s: Dr Silke Göbel*)

Your child is being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether your child would like to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

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

This research project is investigating whether the ease with which children translate spoken number words (e.g. 'four') to Arabic digits (e.g. 4) is foundational for mathematical development in primary school.

**Why has my child been chosen?**

As part of this research we are looking for around 220 children in total, aged between 5 and 6 years (from Year 1) to take part in the study. Your child has been chosen to take part because they fit these criteria. The head teacher of your child's school has provided consent for the Year 1 children to be invited to take part.

**Does my child have to take part?**

No. This is an entirely voluntary project. If you choose not to participate it will not affect you or your child in any way.

If you do not want your child to participate in this study, please send an email to [numer8ed@york.ac.uk](mailto:numer8ed@york.ac.uk) telling us the name of your child, the school your child is going to and the class your child is in. Alternatively, you may prefer to fill in the slip at the bottom of this page and hand it in to your child's teacher to be passed to the researchers.

If you would like your child to participate in this study, you do not need to reply to this letter. Even if you do not opt your child out, you will still be able to withdraw your child at any time and without giving a reason.

**What will my child be asked to do if we agree to take part?**

Children will be assessed at three time-points, with the first assessment scheduled to take place at the end of Year 1. The following two time-points will take place approximately 12 months apart, in accordance with the school's timetable. For example, testing could take place in June 2017, June 2018 and June 2019.

At the first time-point children will complete one individual assessment session and two classroom assessment sessions. An audio voice recording will be taken during the individual assessment.

Individual activities: will include short individual measures looking at children's number knowledge, memory and reading.

- Memory tasks (recalling sentences, digits and spatial locations in order)
- Computer based number task measuring quick recognition of number words
- Phonics (measures of phoneme awareness)
- Quick naming of digits and letters

Classroom activities: will include measures of numeracy, number sense, memory and general ability.

- General reasoning ability (which pattern completes the picture)
- Numeracy (timed and non-timed maths problems e.g.  $2 + 7 =$  )
- Number writing (translating number words to Arabic digits)
- Comparison tasks (e.g. which is the larger number 5 or 9?)

At later time-points children will complete one shortened classroom assessment session. If your child takes part we might contact your child's head teacher to ask you and your child to potentially take part in follow-up studies in the future.

### **Where will the research sessions take place?**

The session will take place in school. The total testing time for individual sessions should not exceed 30 minutes. Classroom based sessions will not exceed a total of 90 minutes and will be completed across two to three sessions. Children will be able to take a short break during each session and will be rewarded with a sticker for their participation.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the research sessions are as enjoyable and relaxed as possible for the children.

### **Who will run the research sessions?**

Our researchers have Criminal Record Bureau clearance for working with children. Dr Francina Clayton, Clare Copper, Erin Dysart, Philippa Gibbons, Rebecca Lowndes, Rebecca Reed, Federico Trotvil Nossa will meet the children taking part and run the sessions.

### **Will all my child's details and the assessment results be kept confidential?**

We would like to assure you that information from the study will be kept strictly confidential. Children's results will be identified by code number only. Audio voice recordings will only be used by researchers to verify the information taken on the individual measures. Audio data will be deleted to guarantee the anonymity of the children's identity and will not be used in future research. All data will be collected and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. This study has been approved by the University of York Psychology Research Ethics Committee (Project ID Number: 559).

We will not provide data about individual children to their parent/carer. We can provide feedback to schools if they request it. The schools are aware that this information has been obtained for research purposes and would not therefore inform education or other therapeutic needs. Thus, any individual feedback requested by the school must remain confidential. Individual results cannot be given to the children themselves or to parents.

Please do not hesitate to contact the researchers if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

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***Thank you for reading this information and considering whether or not you would like your child to take part in this study.***

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**PLEASE DO NOT TEST MY CHILD IN THIS STUDY**

Name of Child (BLOCK LETTERS): .....

Child's School (BLOCK LETTERS): .....

Child's Class (BLOCK LETTERS): .....

Signature of Parent: ..... Date: .....

Name of Parent (BLOCK LETTERS): .....

Please return this form by **26<sup>th</sup> May 2017**, if you do NOT want your child to take part in the study.