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**CAREGIVER INFORMATION SHEET**

**Project Title:** The Play in Childhood Study

**What is the research for?**

Yourself, your child, and your child’s teacher are invited to take part in a research study investigating the importance of play for children’s wellbeing at home and school. We want to investigate the idea that children’s speech as they play helps them to be more able to build positive relationships with others and cope with stress and worries.

**Why have we been invited to take part?**

[INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL] has approved our research and agreed to send this information sheet on our behalf to all parents/caregivers of children who are aged 6-7 years old.

**Who is carrying out the research?**

The research is being carried out by Dr. Amy Paine at Cardiff University and postgraduate and undergraduate research assistants under her supervision. The research has been approved by the School of Psychology Cardiff University Ethics Committee and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

**What will happen?**

We will be inviting children and their families to take part in the study, which will involve playing games with a researcher remotely on Zoom. We will also ask you and your child’s classroom teacher to complete a brief questionnaire about your child’s experiences and behaviour. Later in the year, we will visit your child’s school where your child will be video recorded as they have a short play session with a classmate also participating in the study. The questionnaires will be redistributed approximately 1 year later to you and your child’s teacher see how your child is getting on. We will also invite you and your child to complete the same games and tasks with a researcher on Zoom.

**What is the time commitment?**

The questionnaires will take around 20-30 minutes to complete, and the tasks and games your child will complete with a researcher on Zoom will take approximately 1 hour. We will carefully arrange the play session with your child’s class teacher to ensure your child’s schedule is not disrupted.

**What are my rights?**

When taking part in the study, you and your child have the right to stop participation at any time, and you can also decide you want your own and your child’s data withdrawn or destroyed, without having to give a reason. After the study is complete, this may no longer be possible as the data will have been anonymised so they cannot be linked to your child.

We will ask your child’s permission before they take part, and they will be told they can stop at any time. If we notice that your child is uncomfortable or distressed, the session will be stopped immediately, and they will have the option of withdrawing from the study or taking part on a different day.

**What are the benefits and risks?**

The study has no known risks. The tasks and games your child will complete in the study have been tried and tested in children with no ill effect. The advantage of taking part is that many of the tasks are fun for children as they are designed to be like games. The study will contribute to scientific knowledge on child development and child wellbeing.

**Will my and my child’s time be reimbursed?**

Your child will receive a prize and certificate for taking part in the study at each time point. You will receive an Amazon shopping voucher of £10 per questionnaire you complete for the study (there will be two questionnaires total over two time points).

**How will my data be used?**

The data you and your child provide in the study will inform understanding of the importance of play for children’s wellbeing. The scientific results of the study will be analysed and studied by the research team; only members of the research team will have access to the data. The data collected will be made confidential. It will never be linked with your personal information and your data will be given an identifying number. No one outside of the study will see the data, personal information, or video recordings. The findings will be shared in reports in scientific journals, in conference presentations, and may be shared in other articles (e.g., press releases, magazines). You and your child will not be personally identifiable in our description of our findings.

**Will our information be kept confidential?**

Yes. We will follow ethical and legal practice and all information about you and your child will be handled in confidence. As the study will include two time points of data collection, we will keep your personal details (e.g., information from consent forms) for the duration of the study. These will be kept locked away and secure at Cardiff University. This personal information will be destroyed upon completion of the study, unless you agree to be contacted for future studies (see below).

You will have the option to share your contact details to receive information about participating in future research. If you agree, your contact details will be kept on a secure database until your child is 16 years old, at which point we will delete your details from our records. We will never share your details with anyone and you can request to have your information removed without giving a reason.

The data collected from the study will be kept in anonymised and deidentified databases. We will also collect video data of your child, which will be transcribed and anonymised. Your own, and your child’s data will be given a unique ID number and will be kept on secure servers and locked hard drives at Cardiff University, and will only be accessible by members of the study team. Any questionnaires you provide will be destroyed 5 years after the study is complete, and the video recordings 7 years after the study is complete.

The data collected from the study will be an exciting and important resource for future researchers interested in child development. The fully anonymised and deidentified datasets and transcripts from this study will be made available for future researchers on the ReShare UK Data Service archive, in line with ethical and legal practice. The data that you or your child provide (e.g., responses to questionnaires) that will be made available for future researchers will be anonymous and no identifying information would be shared in this archive. Your child’s video data will not be deposited onto the UK Data Service archive.

Only researchers who are registered users of the UK Data Service and approved by the depositor (the Principal Investigator, Dr. Amy Paine), will have access to these datasets.

**I’m interested in taking part, what do I do next?**

Please reply to the invitation sent to you by the research team on [play@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:play@cardiff.ac.uk) and we will book in your first session on Zoom at a convenient time for you and your child. The PI, Dr. Amy Paine, will be happy to answer any questions you have about this study at any time, and can inform you of the study’s results once the project is finished. You can contact her by email or phone (please see details below).

**What should I do if I have concerns about the study?**

If you have any concerns, please contact us using the details below. You can also directly contact the University Ethics Committee by emailing [psychethics@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:psychethics@cardiff.ac.uk).

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**Privacy notice:** The information provided will be held in compliance with GDPR regulations. Cardiff University is the Data Controller and is committed to respecting and protecting your personal data in accordance with your expectations and Data Protection legislation. The University has a Data Protection Officer, James Merrifield, who can be contacted at [merrifieldj1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:merrifieldj1@cardiff.ac.uk). Further information about Data Protection, including your rights and details about how to contact the Information Commissioner’s Office should you wish to complain, can be found at the following <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/publicinformation/policies-and-procedures/data-protection> The lawful basis for the processing of the data you provide is consent. This information is being collected by Dr. Amy Paine.