



Bilingualism and Childhood

Parent information sheet

We want to ask you if you would be willing to take part in our autism and bilingualism study – and if possible, we would like to complete all of our assessments and games in your home. Please take time to read the information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the project about?

We are a team of psychologists working at the University of Edinburgh. This project is exploring how growing up in a bilingual home affects a child's development, and if any effects are different for children with autism. Instead of coming to the university, we would like to come and visit you and your child at home to play some games and watch your children complete a few tasks. We would also like to leave you with some questionnaires about you and your child, and the different languages that you speak.

Does my child have to take part?

No, 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 be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you and your child are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Deciding not to take part or withdrawing from the study will not affect the healthcare that your child receives, or their legal rights.

What will we do?

If you Decide to take part. this is what we will do:

1) We will visit your home at two time-points over two years. At the first time-point the researcher will visit your home for approximately 2.5 hours. At the second time-point (approximately one year later) the researcher will visit your home for around 1.5 hours. During these visits they will:

- a) Do some assessments (using games) with your child to look at their language, social and communication skills
- b) Do some assessments using a computer that the researcher will bring with them
- c) Video-record your child while the researcher runs an autism assessment
- d) Give you some questionnaires about you and your bilingualism experiences and your child's development.

We hope that all of the children taking part in this project will have a fun time. Children will receive a gift as a thank you at the end of the both timepoints worth £5 and at end of the study, you will also receive a gift voucher of your choice for £20

Throughout the project we will be available to answer any questions that you might have by phone or email. Our details are at the bottom of this page.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to you taking part in this study, but the results from this study might help to improve the healthcare of others in the future.

What if there are any problems?

If you have a question about any aspect of this study specifically, or just want to discuss it further, you can contact Rachael Davis (rdavis3@ed.ac.uk / 0131 537 6505), who is conducting the research. She will do her best to answer your questions.

What happens if I don't want to carry on with the study?

If you decide to withdraw from the study we will remove your information from our database and destroy all data we have collected.

What will happen to the results of the study?

This study will be written up as publications, conference presentations and public reports.

You will not be identifiable from any published results.

If the results of the study are to be made available to the participants they should be informed and in what format will they take (newsletter, email, website – if using a website please insert URL). Detail how they will access this.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This study has been organised by the University of Edinburgh and sponsored by The University of Edinburgh.

The study is being funded by The Economic and Social Research Council.

Who has reviewed the study?

The University of Edinburgh has given ethical approval for this study. Copies of their comments are available if you wish to see them.

Researcher contact details?

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study please contact Rachael Davis (rdavis3@ed.ac.uk / 0131 5376505) who is conducting the research. She will do her best to answer your questions.