



School of Psychology
Participant Information Sheet
Version: 2 Date: 20/06/2025

Novel sign acquisition in young children



You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being undertaken and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others, if you wish.

Thank you for reading this.

1. What is the purpose of this research project?

This research is part of a PhD project, supervised by Dr Hana D'Souza and Professor Merideth Gattis. We are interested in finding out how young children learn new words and signs.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because we are conducting research at your child's school or childcare setting, and you are the parent or caregiver of a child with no neurodevelopmental diagnoses.

3. Do I have to take part?

No, your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary, and it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form. If you decide not to take part, you do not have to explain your reasons and it will not affect your legal rights.

You are free to withdraw your consent to participate in the research project at any time, without giving a reason, even after signing the consent form.

4. What will taking part involve?

If you agree for your child to participate, they will take part in a 20-minute research project on a day agreed with your child's school.

This will involve your child playing a variety of games with a researcher. This will include playing with some toys at a table, as well as playing some iPad games. These games are designed to be a fun way to help us understand how young children learn new words and signs.

We will do our best to make your child's participation as comfortable as possible. If they decide that they need a break, or are not happy taking part, then we will stop the games.

These games with your child will be audio and video recorded for the purposes of the research. These recordings will be stored securely, and only accessed by key members of the team.

5. Will I be paid for taking part?

No. However, as a thank you for your time, your child will receive a certificate for taking part.

You should understand that any data you give will be as a gift, and you will not benefit financially in the future should this research project lead to the development of new guidance.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There will be no direct advantages or benefits to you or your child from taking part.

7. What are the possible risks of taking part?

There are no foreseeable risks from taking part in this study other than those associated with everyday life. If your child experiences discomfort and distress at any point, we will pause or stop the activities, and listen to the guidance of your child's teacher.

8. Will my taking part in this research project be kept confidential?

All information collected from (or about) you or your child during the research project will be kept confidential, and any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with data protection legislation. Please see 'What will happen to my Personal Data?' (below) for further information.

In exceptional cases, the research team may be legally and ethically required to over-ride confidentiality and to disclose information obtained about you or your child to relevant agencies, for safeguarding reasons. For example, this might arise where the research team has reason to believe that there is a risk to your or your child's safety. Where appropriate, the research team will aim to notify you of the need to break confidentiality (but this may not be appropriate in all cases).

9. What will happen to my Personal Data?

The research project will collect personal data, including: your child's name, date of birth, sex and ethnicity. All other data collected will be assigned an anonymous identifier. However, it will be possible for key members of the research team to match your anonymous and identifiable data.

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. Further information about Data Protection, including:

- your rights
- the legal basis under which Cardiff University processes your personal data for research
- Cardiff University's Data Protection Policy
- how to contact the Cardiff University Data Protection Officer
- how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office

may be found at <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies-and-procedures/dataprotection>

10. What happens to the data at the end of the research project?

Personal and anonymised data will be kept for a minimum of 5 years from the end of the project or after publication of any findings based upon the data (whichever is later). Data may be published in support of the research project and/or retained indefinitely, where it is likely to have continuing value for research purposes.

If you ask to be withdrawn from the project, all of your data collected up to that point will be destroyed if you would like it to be, with the exception of data which has already been published.

You can agree for your data to be shared securely with other researchers, here or abroad (EU and non-EU), and made available on secure data repositories. This will be done exclusively for research purposes. It may include anonymised data as well as video and audio recordings without personal information such as name, date of birth, address. This would facilitate our research as it would enable us to collaborate on data processing and analysis with experts from around the world.

11. What will happen to the results of the research project?

It is our intention to publish the results of this research project in academic journals and present findings at conferences. Participants will not be identified in any report, publication or presentation. Results are likely to be published over a series of years. You may contact us if you wish to obtain a copy of the published results.

12. What if there is a problem?

If you wish to complain or have grounds for concerns about any aspect of the manner in which you have been approached or treated during the course of this research, please contact Dr Hana D'Souza (DSouzaH@cardiff.ac.uk) or the School of Psychology Research Ethics Committee, Cardiff University at the address below. If your complaint is not managed to your satisfaction, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office should you wish to complain, can be found at the following:

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies>

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies-and-procedures/data-protection-and-procedures/data-protection>.

If you are harmed by taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, you may have grounds for legal action, but you may have to pay for it.

13. Who is organising and funding this research project?

The research is organised by Kate Mee (PhD student), and supervised by Dr Hana D'Souza and Professor Merideth Gattis in the Department of Psychology, Cardiff University. The research is currently funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

14. Who has reviewed this research project?

This research project has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the School of Psychology Research Ethics Committee, Cardiff University. Secretary of the Ethics Committee, School of Psychology, Cardiff University, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3AT. Tel: 029 2087 0707 Email: psychethics@cardiff.ac.uk.

15. Further information and contact details

Should you have any questions relating to this research project, you may contact us on the email addresses below:

Kate Mee (babylab-embodied@cardiff.ac.uk)

Dr Hana D'Souza (DSouzaH@cardiff.ac.uk)

Thank you for considering taking part in this research project. If you decide to participate, you will be given a copy of the Participant Information Sheet and a signed consent form to keep for your records.