

PARENT/CARER PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Directors of the study: Dr Wolfgang Mann, Dr Robin Thompson, Rachel O'Neill
Research Assistant: Pavundeep Johal

Brief Description of Research Project, and What Participation Involves:

The **Online Reading Project** is a research project to identify information-seeking and evaluating strategies used by 30 hearing and deaf children, aged 13-14 years, when reading internet-based materials. Specifically, we are interested in online reading strategies such as the use of graphics, text, multiple pages and review strategies. We would like to invite your son/daughter to a day at the University of Birmingham to take part in this study. You may accompany him/her.

We request permission to test your child on three reading tasks:

1. reading plain text from a computer screen
2. reading from a simulated website with hyperlinks
3. reading as part of an online search to answer questions and find word meanings

We will ask your child what s/he is doing during task 1 and will interview him/her briefly after this task. This will be video-recorded. We will use these video recordings, record mouse clicks and time spent on pages, eye-tracking and your child's responses for our analyses. Eye tracking is a well-established and safe way of recording people's eye movements on a screen.

Two assessments will also be given to your child, including a non-verbal ability test where the young person looks for a relationship in a set of pictures and an English vocabulary test (BSL for signing deaf participants) where the young person names pictures. In addition, there will be a brief interview to establish your son's/daughter's fluency in English (or BSL for signing deaf participants). The total time for administering all assessments and tasks will be 3-4 hours, including breaks between tasks/tests. All

testing will take place at the University of Birmingham. We are happy to work with you to organise a convenient time for both you and your child to come to our lab. Your travel expenses will be covered. Once you agree for your child to participate, we will email you a brief questionnaire on his/her language preference and internet use. This information will help us to interpret the findings. In addition, we would like permission to ask your child's teacher for the results from a recent reading assessment.

It is important that you and your child know it is okay to decide not to join in the study. Your child may choose to withdraw from the study at any point without any penalty. No names or identifying personal details of your child will be fed back to the Universities or given in any presentation of the findings, and it will not be possible for anyone to recognise your child in any publication about the project. Video-recordings will only be used by the researchers to assess the data. We will post the findings from this study on our project webpage and on social media but this will not include any details about individual participants.

Investigator Contact Details:

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Please note: if you have a concern about any aspect of your participation or any other queries please raise this with the investigator. You can also contact the Director of Studies. However, if you would like to contact an independent party please contact the Deputy Director of Research.

Deputy Director for Research:
Professor Andrew Stables
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Consent Statement:

I agree for my child to take part in this research, and am aware that I am/my child is free to withdraw at any point without giving a reason. If I do so I understand that my child’s data might still be used in a collated form. I understand that the information I provide will be treated in confidence by the investigator and that my child’s identity will be protected in the publication of any findings, and that data will be collected and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and with the University’s Data Protection Policy.

Please also tick all that apply below:

- I agree for my son/daughter’s standardised reading score to be passed on to the research team.
- I agree for my son/daughter’s audiogram or CI threshold report to be passed on to the research team. *(this item is only for deaf participants)*
- I would like to be kept informed of the outcomes of the project.

Signature of parent / caregiver _____ Date _____

Parent’s name _____

Son/daughter’s name _____

Date of birth of son/daughter _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Parent’s contact email _____

Parent’s contact phone _____
(please say SMS if message preferred to voice contact)

Please return as soon as possible to:

Rachel O’Neill, School of Education, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ
Or scan and attach as an email to: Rachel.oneill@ed.ac.uk