

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION SHEET

Exploring how difficulty levels affect outcomes in children's performance while imagining and performing actions

Dear Sir/madam

You and your child are invited to participate in the scientific study described below. The study is being conducted by Ms Ranila Bhoynoo as part of her PhD study at The University of Notre Dame Australia. Ms Bhoynoo is being supervised by Dr Adam Wigley and Professor Beth Hands.

What is the study about?

Some children experience difficulties imagining and performing actions. This appears to be affected by the difficulty or complexity of the task and the child's level of motor competence. This project will compare children with both high and low motor competence to assess outcomes of a number of fun, simple fine motor tasks.

What will my child be asked to do?

If you consent for your child to take part in this study, it is important that you understand what we are doing and what we will be asking your child to do. Please discuss this with your child and make sure that any questions that you and your child have, are answered to your satisfaction before you agree to participate. You and your child will need to attend the University of Notre Dame Australia for two days. You will be paid a small gratuity, \$10 for Day 1 and \$20 for Day 2 to cover your expenses (parking, transport, etc.).

Day 1 (30-45 mins): Your child will complete a movement competence assessment.

Day 2 (90 mins): There are two sessions for day 2. Your child will be allocated 15 mins break between the sessions.

Session 1 (50 mins): Your child will complete four tasks asking him to imagine and perform movements.

- Task 1– visual guided pointed task. Your child will imagine making consecutive back and forth movements using a digital pen between a line and a target box. He will then perform the movements using a digitizing tablet.
- Task 2– virtual radial Fitts task. Your child will imagine performing a set sequence of movements with a pen as rapidly and accurately as possible. He will then perform the movements using a digitizing tablet.
- Task 3– hand rotation task. Your child will be shown photos of a hand on a computer screen. He has to decide if it is a right hand or left hand. His answers will be recorded using a button press.
- Task 4– body rotation task. Your child will be shown photos of a whole person presented on the screen of a computer. He has to decide if the right arm or left arm is extended. His answers will be recorded using a button press.

Session 2 (40 mins): Your child will complete four action tasks. For all the tasks, your child's performances will be video-taped to allow Ranila to review them.

- Task 1– bar rotation task. Your child will grasp a bar mounted on a square board and to place the bar vertically in a circular holder on the table with the assigned end downwards.

- Task 2– octagon task. Your child will grasp and rotate a wooden octagon to match one or more colours in a set order.
- Task 3– sword task. Your child will grasp the handle of a wooden sword from the table and insert its point into a slot.
- Task 4 - bar transportation task. Your child will grasp a wooden bar and place one end on a target disc.

The results of this study will be used to design a follow-up study examining brain patterns. If you are interested in having your child participate in this study, please indicate this by signing the additional section on the consent form. You will be contacted by Ranila to confirm your interest and receive information about that study once the design has been finalised.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

It is possible that your child may become tired during the session. Your child will be monitored closely and if he shows signs of fatigue, stress or anxiety the session will be stopped and re-started when your child feels ready.

What are the benefits of the research project?

The study aims to clarify the extent task difficulty impacts imagining and planning actions in children with a range of motor competence levels. This study will contribute to our understanding about how children plan movements. It will also help to create training programs for those who have difficulty.

What if my child changes their mind?

If you would like to withdraw your child from the study, you can do so at any time without discrimination or prejudice. If your child decides he no longer wants to participate, he needs only let Ranila or someone from the research team know. If your child withdraws, all information you and your child have provided will be destroyed.

Will anyone else know the results of the project?

Information gathered about your child will be held in strict confidence. This confidence will only be broken if required by law. Your child’s responses (Day 1, Day 2 – session 1) and videos (Day 2 – session 2) will be uploaded on a computer. Ranila will use the videos to analyse and record your child’s performances. Once the study is completed the responses will be stored securely as de-identified data at The University of Notre Dame Australia for at least five years. There is a possibility that Ranila will need the video footage of your child to present in conferences. If you and your child consent for Ranila to use the videos, she will store them securely for the purpose of conference presentations. In case either you or your child, or both of you disagrees, the videos will be permanently deleted from the system. After the team has analysed the data, the results will be published in scholarly journals and/or presented at academic and research conferences.

Will I be able to find out the results of the project?

We will send you an email with a summary of the findings in May/June 2017.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?

If you have any questions about this project please feel free to contact either myself, Ranila [email: ranila.bhoyroo1@my.nd.edu.au; phone: 0426976713 or my supervisors, Dr Adam Wigley [email: adam.wigley@nd.edu.au] and Professor Beth Hands [email: beth.hands@nd.edu.au]. We are happy to discuss with you any concerns you may have about this study.

What if I have a concern or complaint?

The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at The University of Notre Dame Australia (approval number **016130F**). If you have a concern or complaint regarding the ethical conduct of this research project and would like to speak to an independent person, please contact Notre Dame's Ethics Officer at (+61 8) 9433 0943 or research@nd.edu.au. Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

How does my child sign up to participate?

If you are happy for your child to participate, please sign both copies of the consent form, keep one for yourself and mail the other to me in the envelope provided. You will be paid a small gratuity of \$20.00 to cover your expenses (e.g., parking, transport etc).

Yours sincerely,



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