

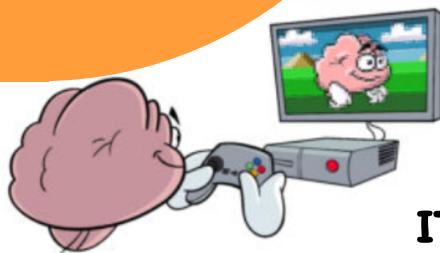
ADAPTING A PROBLEM-SOLVING PROGRAMME FOR AUTISTIC YOUNG PEOPLE, THOSE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, OR THOSE WITH EPILEPSY

Hi there! We're inviting you to join our research study. We're making a cool problem-solving programme! It'll help children and young people aged 9 to 18 years who are autistic, have learning difficulties, or have epilepsy. Before you decide if you'd like to take part, we'll tell you everything you need to know.



WHAT IS THIS STUDY?

Some children and young people might find it tricky to solve problems, plan things, or stay organised. That's okay! We're working on a programme called Teen Online Problem Solving (TOPS). It's like a toolkit to help with these skills. Originally, it was made for young people with brain injuries, but now we want to make it even better for children and young people who are autistic, have learning difficulties, or have epilepsy. That's why we are inviting you to take part - your thoughts and ideas will help us create a version that is just right!



WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU JOIN?

After meeting with a research team member to talk about what's involved, you'll have an online chat with our researchers and with up to 7 other children and young people.

It'll be about an hour long, and we'll record it. You can turn off your camera if you'd like, and only our research team will listen to the recording

We'll ask you what you think to make the TOPS programme better for children and young people like you who are autistic, have learning difficulties, or have epilepsy.

You can share your ideas about what it should look like and what things the programme should help with.

IT IS UP TO YOU

You'll Have a Say

If you agree to take part We will arrange to meet with you (via video/audio call) to tell you more about what will be involved and to find out from you if there is anything that we can do to make participating in the study more enjoyable for you

It's Your Choice and You Can Leave Anytime

It's totally up to you if you want to take part! If you want to join, that's great. But if not, no worries! If you say yes, you'll need to sign a 'consent form.' And if you're under 16, your parents or guardians will sign too. If you change your mind later and want to leave, just tell us. You don't have to explain why. And don't worry, it won't affect any gift vouchers you might get.

You Can Change Your Mind About Your Data

After you join, you can tell us to delete anything you shared for two weeks. And later, we'll take out any details that could show it was you, so, it'll be completely private.

ANY RISKS?

There are no major risks to joining. We'll be talking about both the good and the not-so-good parts of the programme. If anything makes you uncomfortable or upset, you can leave the call, take a break, or even stop taking part. Your safety and comfort come first.

ANY BENEFITS?

By joining, you'll be helping us create a better program for other children and young people like you. Plus, you will get a £25 voucher as a thank you for taking part.



WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR INFORMATION?

After we write it down and remove anything that could identify you, we'll delete the recording.

We'll record the call to write down what was said, but only the research team will listen to it.

The notes will be kept safely and password-protected on the University of Exeter server, and they might be used for other research by us for up to 10 years.

HOW DO WE KEEP YOUR INFORMATION SAFE?

All recordings and notes will be stored securely, and only our research team will have access to them. When we write reports, we won't include anything that means someone reading it could find out who you are.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you (or your parent) wants to join our Research Volunteer Register, then we will be in touch with you again in a few years to check if you still want to be on our Register

GOT ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, you or your parents/guardians can contact the research team:



Anna Adlam

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Flora Hemming

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If you have any concerns about ethics, you can talk to the Psychology Ethics Committee Co-Chairs, Ian McLaren (I.P.L.McLaren@exeter.ac.uk) and Ciro Civile (c.civile@exeter.ac.uk). You can also reach out to Antony Walsh (A.Walsh3@exeter.ac.uk) if you want to talk to someone else about any worries or complaints.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS AND FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR RESEARCH STUDY!