



Moral development and social information processing: relationships with empathy, working memory and perspective taking.

Study Information Sheet
(Please keep this copy)

My name is Beverley Garrigan. I am a Clinical Psychology PhD student at the University of East Anglia. As part of my PhD, I am conducting a research study and I would like to invite you to take part.

Before you decide whether or not you would like to take part in this study, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve, so please take time to read this information sheet.

What is the study about?

We know that as children get older they develop different skills such as memory and decision making. We want to know how these skills are linked to each other, and how they are linked to behaviour.

If we know more about the relationships between these skills in the general population, we can understand more about problems that certain people may face, such as young people with brain injuries. Also, if we know more about what skills are linked to behaviour, we may be able to develop better rehabilitation programmes.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part in this study because you are aged 11-18 years old.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is entirely up to you if you would like to take part or not. This information sheet is to give you more information about the study to help you make a decision either way. We also encourage you to show your parents this study information sheet.

What does the study involve?

If you decide to take part in the study, one of the research team will arrange a study session at a time and place that is convenient for you. You can email the researcher, Beverley on B.Garrigan@exeter.ac.uk.

At the start of this session, the researcher will explain the study and make sure you understand what you will be asked to do. You will then be asked to sign a consent form, giving your permission to take part in the study.

This study is looking at relationships between different skills in typically developing children. If you have been diagnosed with a developmental disability such as autism, or a learning disability, you will unfortunately be unable to take part in the study. At the start of the study session the researcher will check that you fit the eligibility criteria to take part in the study.

You will be asked to complete a few different tasks. You will be asked to fill out a paper questionnaire which asks different questions about your behaviour and how you think. You will also be asked to watch some short animated clips on a laptop and answer questions about what you think is happening in the clips. For some questions, you will be asked to say your answers out loud. The researcher will write your answers down and also record them using an audio recorder. One of your teachers and one of your parents or guardians will also be asked to answer some questions about your behaviour.

You will also be asked whether you agree for the researcher to talk to you about another study that is part of Beverley's PhD. If you agree, you may be given some information about another study and invited to take part but you do not have to take part in this extra study.

The session may take up to two hours, but may be split into 2 sessions if you prefer. If you need a break at any time during the study session you can just let the researcher know.

Will I be paid for taking part?

You will not be paid for taking part but you will be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win a voucher. At the end of the study, 20 winners will be chosen at random and will each win a £20 voucher. Winners will be able to choose from either a voucher for Amazon, Tesco's or iTunes.

Will my answers be confidential?

Yes. All the answers you give will be strictly confidential and will only be seen by the researcher and her supervisors. Your answers will be kept using an ID number and so not matched to your name. Only the researcher will have a list which matches names to ID numbers and this will be kept in a locked filing cabinet at the University of East Anglia.

The consent forms containing names will be kept in a separate filing cabinet to the responses to the assessments. In accordance with guidelines, the data will be kept securely at the University of East Anglia for 10 years.

Your answers to one part of the assessment will be sent to researchers at the University of Bristol, who made this task so that they can score it. These researchers will only know your ID number and will not know your name or any information about you. If the researcher thinks that something you have told us means that you are at risk of harm, the researcher may have to pass this information onto somebody at your school.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By taking part in this study you are helping us to understand the relationships between social, cognitive and moral development in typically developing young people. You will also gain some experience of how psychological research studies are carried out.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

This session may take up to 2 hours and so you may get bored or tired. If you would like a break at any time, just let the researcher know. If any of the questions upset you we can stop the study and discuss this, or stop the session if you prefer.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on in the study?

You can stop being in the study at any time, without giving a reason.

If you decide you no longer want to take part in the study, any data we have collected about you will be destroyed.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any questions or problems with the study you can contact Beverley Garrigan, or one of her supervisors via the details below. If you want to speak to someone not involved in the study you can contact the head of Beverley's department, Professor Kenneth Laidlaw, using the details at the end of this sheet.

What will happen to the study results?

The research is part of a PhD. The results will be written up as part of a large piece of work that Beverley will hand in to the University of East Anglia. The results of the study may also be printed in a research journal.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is being organised and funded by the University of East Anglia, in collaboration with the University of Exeter, as part of the researcher's PhD.

Who has reviewed and approved this study?

This research has been considered by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee. This study was reviewed by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Committee at the University of East Anglia, and was given a favourable opinion.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

This is your copy to keep.

I would be extremely grateful for your assistance.

If you have any questions about this study, you can contact the researcher, Beverley Garrigan by emailing: B.Garrigan@uea.ac.uk

Or you can contact one of Beverley's PhD supervisors:

Dr Peter Langdon

Email: P.E.Langdon@kent.ac.uk

Phone: 01603 711178

Dr Sian Coker

Email: s.coker@uea.ac.uk

Phone: 01603 593544

If you would prefer to speak to someone not involved in the study you can contact the Head of the Clinical Psychology Department at the University of East Anglia, Professor Kenneth Laidlaw:

Email: K.Laidlaw@uea.ac.uk

Phone: 01603 593600