

# How do different children make decisions?

## Parent Information Sheet

### Overview

We are looking for children aged 7-10 and their parents/carers to take part in a study about how children make decisions. All children aged 7-10 can take part.

If you agree to take part:

- Your child will be seen twice at school, around 2 weeks apart
- Your child will play computer games where they make decisions about what they see
- Your child will do activities to measure their language, reasoning and reading skills
- You will fill in questionnaires about your child
- You will get a £5 voucher
- Your child's school will get a £5 voucher

**If you would like to take part, please click the link to the consent form:**

**[https://bhampsiychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9Xr6q5N8OioJiku](https://bhampsiychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Xr6q5N8OioJiku)**

### What is this study about? Why is it important?

Everyday, we make decisions based on sensory information around us. For example, we decide whether someone we are talking to sounds happy or sad, and we decide whether the car at the end of the car park is our own car or just one that looks similar.

The ability to make decisions changes as children get older. But children differ a lot from each other in how they make decisions. This study will find out why. We will look at how children's characteristics (like their reading, attention and social skills) affect how they make decisions. We will also find out how consistent children are when making different decisions on different days. Once we know this, we will look at how decision-making affects children's learning and achievement at school. In the future, we hope to develop education programmes.

We will see your child twice at school, around 2 weeks apart. In these sessions, your child will be invited to:

- Play computer games where they make decisions about what they see. For example, they may be work out the direction of moving fireflies.
- Do activities to measure their language, reasoning and reading skills.



Each session will take under 1 hour. We may split sessions up to fit around the school timetable, or if your child needs a break.

You will be asked to fill in some questionnaires about your child's development and characteristics. These can be done on paper, online, or over the phone. These will take under 45 minutes. Please use recorded delivery if you post questionnaires to us.

### What are the benefits and risks of taking part?

- Your child will get a record of achievement.
- You will be sent a £5 voucher after you have finished the questionnaires.
- Your child's school will get a £5 voucher towards educational resources for each child who takes part.
- We will send you a report of the overall findings.
- You will be contributing to science, which may benefit children's education in future.
- There are no risks that are greater than other activities in school.

### Do we have to take part?

No.

- You and your child can decide whether to take part.
- Taking part or not taking part will not affect your child's education.
- Even if you sign the consent form, you or your child can decide to stop taking part at any time. You do not need to give a reason. Just contact the researchers.
- You and the school will not get a voucher if you stop taking part.

### What will happen to our information?

- The personal information we collect about you and your child is kept strictly confidential.
- Children are given a code number, and no identifying information (e.g., name, date of birth) will be shared with anyone outside of the research team.
- All data will be stored securely on password protected computers and University servers or in locked filing cabinets in the University.
- We will publish the results in a scientific journal and present the findings at conferences.
- Your contact details will only be used for this study and will be deleted after the study. However, if you tell us you would like to hear about future studies from us or other researchers at the Centre for Developmental Science, we will keep your details on a secure database.
- Any hard copies of data will be kept until we have inputted the data digitally.
- Consent records will be kept for 5 years after the project ends. Then they will be destroyed.
- Anonymised data from this study will be shared with other researchers who apply to use the data, so that it can be of greater scientific benefit.
- If you would like your data from the questionnaires or tasks to be removed after you have taken part, we can do this as long as we have not started analysing the data. This will be approximately 2 weeks after we have seen the last child. Please contact us if you would like your data to be removed.
- You can ask for your contact details to be removed at any time.

### Who is involved in this study?

This study is being run by Dr Cathy Manning (Principal Investigator), Dr Lucy McKeown (Postdoctoral Research Fellow), Aneesa Begum and Lily Herbert (Research Assistants). The study is funded by The Leverhulme Trust.

### Who has checked this study?

This study has been reviewed by the STEM Ethics Committee at the University of Birmingham (ref: ERN\_4758-Dec2025). All researchers have had criminal record (DBS) checks.

### What if I have a concern?

If you have any concerns, please contact Dr Lucy McKeown ([l.a.mckeown@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.mckeown@bham.ac.uk)) or Dr Cathy Manning ([c.manning@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.manning@bham.ac.uk)). They will get back to you within 10 working days about how they will deal with your concerns. If you are still unhappy, or want to make a formal complaint, please contact the secretary to the Research Committee (Elizabeth Westlake; [e.westlake@bham.ac.uk](mailto:e.westlake@bham.ac.uk)).

### GDPR

The organisation responsible for protection of your personal information is the University of Birmingham (the Data Controller). Queries regarding data protection and your rights should be directed to [dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk), or in writing to: The Information Compliance Manager, Legal Services, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

The University of Birmingham collects, analyses, uses, shares, and retains personal data for the purposes of research in the public interest. Under data protection law, we are required to inform you that this use of the personal data we may hold about you is on the lawful basis of being a public task in the public interest and where it is necessary for scientific or historical research purposes. If you withdraw from a research study, which processes your personal data, dependant on the stage of withdrawal, we may still rely on this lawful basis to continue using your data if your withdrawal would be of significant detriment to the research study aims. We will always have in place appropriate safeguards to protect your personal data.

If we have included any additional requests for use of your data, for example adding you to a registration list for the purposes of inviting you to take part in future studies, this will be done only with your consent where you have provided it to us and should you wish to be removed from the register at a later date, you should contact Dr Cathy Manning by email [c.manning@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.manning@bham.ac.uk) or by phone (0121 41 45517).

You have certain rights under data protection law which are:

- Withdraw your consent, for example if you opted in to be added to a participant register
- Access your personal data or ask for a copy
- Rectify inaccuracies in personal data that we hold about you
- For your details to be removed from systems that we use to process your personal data
- Restrict uses of your data
- Object to uses of your data, e.g., retention after you have withdrawn from a study

Some restrictions apply to the above rights where data is collected and used for research purposes. You can find out more about your rights on the website of the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) at <https://ico.org.uk>. You also have a right to complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how your data has been handled. Please contact [dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk) in the first instance.

### What should I do next?

Please discuss the study with your child and decide whether you would like to take part.

If you or your child have any questions, please contact Dr Lucy McKeown ([l.a.mckeown@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.mckeown@bham.ac.uk); 0121 41 49517) or Dr Cathy Manning ([c.manning@bham.ac.uk](mailto:c.manning@bham.ac.uk); 0121 41 45517).

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