

Ready or Not: Connecting Viewpoints on Child and Family Wellbeing

Parent Participant Information Sheet

Understanding how children's social and emotional wellbeing contributes to academic success has never been more important. In a new study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, we aim to investigate links between different aspects of school readiness as well as between parents' teachers and children's viewpoints. We'd like to invite your family to join the study - but please do read all the information below before you decide to take part. We hope our findings will help future children making the transition to school. If you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you – you can contact us at any of the email addresses given at the end of this document.

What is the goal of the study? We aim to track 500 children from Reception into Year 1, using individual child sessions (administered via zoom with a parent/carer present) and interviews / questionnaires with teachers and (if possible) filmed peer play in order to: (a) gather a rich picture of changes over time in children's social relationships, cognitive skills and well-being, and (b) investigate similarities and contrasts in how children, parents and teachers view the transition to school. We hope that this work will prove valuable in informing future Early Years education policies.

What does the study involve for children? Study activities, facilitated and filmed by trained research assistants and PhD students with experience of working with children, include:

1. A 30-minute zoom-based set of simple games designed to test children's developmental skills (e.g., memory, language, self-control) and gather their views about school. Tasks will be delivered in bite-size pieces, interspersed with parent-child play using games that we will send each family before the session.
2. A 10-minute school-based peer-play session in pairs, involving a 'Mobilo' set and wipe-clean play mat that will both be given to your child's school to keep. We will send each family a copy of the video-footage as a small thank you (providing we have parental permission from both sets of parents). These videos may be valuable for teaching (e.g., workshops for teachers), but will only be used for this purpose with explicit parental consent.



Mobilo toy and online Etch A Sketch game

What does the study involve for parents and teachers? Family support is key to children’s success at school, but little is known about how this transition affects families; how families can help children progress from Reception to Year 1 and the role of parent-school communication in supporting children’s school readiness. As well as playing the simple games we will send you for the zoom session, we would like at least one parent per child to complete a 10-minute online questionnaire about wellbeing, family characteristics and relationships, and children’s strengths and difficulties, as well as background family characteristics. To supplement the measures in our child sessions, we will ask teachers to complete brief ratings of child skills and social relationships.

Below is a summary of the parts of the study, to be delivered both in Reception Year and Y1.

Participant	Setting	Description
Parent	Phone/online questionnaire	Short survey on parent wellbeing, family relationships and child adjustment
Child + Parent	Zoom call at home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memory Game 2. Puppet Stories (social understanding) 3. Language check 4. Child-Parent Play
Child + Friend	School	Peer-play Game with Mobilo

What should I do if I’d like my child to take part?

If you are happy for your child to be included in the activities outlined above, please click on this link: <https://readyornotstudy.squarespace.com/> to complete a consent form under the section, ‘**Giving consent for your child to take part**’. Please make sure you have read the information in the other sections, and you are happy to proceed. Please note that you can withdraw your child from the study at any time, without giving a reason and without consequence, by emailing us using the contact details provided at the end of this document. If you would like more information to help you decide please visit our website at www.readyornotstudy.uk.

How does the study address potential ethical concerns?

This study has been reviewed by the University of Cambridge Psychology Ethics Committee and the University of Birmingham STEM Research Committee. We do not anticipate any distress however, during the zoom session, children will be asked at regular intervals whether they would like to stop the zoom session or whether they are happy to continue. A short break will also be offered to your child at regular intervals during the zoom session and parents/ caregivers can request a break on behalf of your child at any point. Children and their parent/ caregiver will also be reminded that they can end the zoom session at any time they would like. Parents/ caregivers can withdraw their child from the study without prejudice up until September 30th 2021. To withdraw you will need to contact the study lead and we will delete your data from our records.

In accordance with General Data Protection Regulation guidelines and the Data Protection act, all survey and task data will be kept fully anonymous. Zoom now states they are GDPR compliant (<https://explore.zoom.us/en-us/trust/privacy.html>). The recordings also have end-to-end encryption options (<https://explore.zoom.us/en-us/trust/security.html>). Electronic records collected by members of the University of Cambridge team will be stored securely using the University Secure System, and only the University System Administrator at Cambridge and the research team will have access to the data. Please follow this link for general information about how the University of Cambridge use personal data:

<https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/research-participant-data>.

Study data collected by the University of Cambridge team will be stored in the UIS (University Information Services RFS (Research File Share) to provide safe data-storage for the zoom sessions recordings. Hard copies of data collected by members of the study team will be securely stored in locked cabinets within the School of Psychology at the University of Birmingham or within the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge. All electronic data collected by members of the University of Birmingham team will be password protected and stored on secure servers at the University of Birmingham. Data will only be accessible to the Ready or Not research team.

What if we identify a problem?

The assessments we do are not clinical or diagnostic tests, however if you are experiencing difficulties related to your mental health or your child's wellbeing, please contact your General Practitioner (GP). If you are unable to wait to see a doctor, you can also contact one of the following organisations:

- Samaritans 116 123 (free call)
- NHS Advice Line 111(non-emergency advice)
- Shout Text "SHOUT" to 85258 (24/7 crisis text support)

What will happen to the study results?

They will be kept securely for a minimum of 10 years by the study team in accordance with good research practice. At the beginning of the study your child will be given a unique study number. Your child's unique study number, instead of their name, will be used to identify your child amongst the study team. All electronic data from the visit will be password protected. Individual sessions will only be identifiable by using a unique study number. Research outcomes from this study may be presented at conferences and written up in academic papers for journal publication. Non-identifiable participant data may also be shared with other researchers or the public as part of collaborations, joint projects or open access provisions.

Your family's confidentiality will be maintained throughout. No identifying details about your child will be presented or published without prior consent.

In accordance with best practice, completely anonymised numeric data from the study will be shared with other researchers once the study has ended in March 2023. Data from the study will become "open data". This means that it will be stored in an online database so that it is publicly available. This data will be thoroughly anonymised by removing any personal information that could identify you, such as names and addresses, before submission. This process is integral to the research process as it allows other researchers to verify results and avoid duplicating research. Data are made available on a website, free of charge to academic researchers who wish to conduct their own analysis of the data. We would therefore have no control over how these data are used.

How will this study take into account COVID-19 related health and societal impact and restrictions?

Lockdown measures and social distancing rules imposed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have led to changes in the way we interact with others. In order for you to participate in this study we need both your family and our research team to feel comfortable and confident interacting with one another. In response to COVID-19, we have brought multiple aspects of this study online, including child Zoom sessions and online parent and teacher questionnaires. We may still film your child in school for a peer play session with another study child in the class (if permission is received from both sets of parents). For this part of the study, we will give your child's school a Mobilo play set and a wipe-clean play mat, which the school can then keep as a classroom resource.

How can I contact the study team if I have questions?

Professor Claire Hughes at the University of Cambridge Centre for Family Research (ch288@cam.ac.uk) has overall responsibility for the study. Dr Rory T. Devine has responsibility for the study at the University of Birmingham School of Psychology (R.T.Devine@bham.ac.uk). Other study Principal Investigators include Dr Hana D'Souza at the University of Cambridge Department of Psychology, and Dr Elian Fink at the University of Sussex School of Psychology. The study is being conducted in partnership with Cambridgeshire Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) and the LonDownS Consortium.

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To find out more, visit www.readyornotstudy.uk



Or you can
Click or Scan
this QR code!

