

Ready or Not: Connecting Viewpoints on Child and Family Wellbeing

Participant Information Sheet

Understanding the links between academic success and children's socio-emotional wellbeing has never been more important. Our study, funded by the Economic Social Research Council, aims to: (a) connect the viewpoints of the children and their parents and teachers; (b) improve our understanding of family support for children in the early school years; and (c) explore home-school communication and classroom influences on children's experiences. We hope to work with 250 children Reception and Year 1, as well as their parents and teachers.

What does the study involve for teachers? From October 2021 to the end of February 2022 we will complete Zoom visits with approximately 125 children in Reception and 125 children in Year 1. To interpret the data from these visits we need these children's teachers (or teaching assistants) to complete two brief (5-10 minute) questionnaire sheets: one about the child's skills and social relationships and one about the classroom and teachers' experiences. Teachers have unique insights into children's early school experiences and so gathering teachers' views is crucial. As a small thank you, we will send teachers gift vouchers, with a minimum value of £5 (£2 per teacher sheet and £3 per child sheet).

What does the study involve for families? Parents complete an online survey about their child and their own experiences during the child's time so far in Reception or Year 1, and then accompany their child in completing two paper-and-pen tasks at home and taking part in a 45-minute Zoom visit, led by researchers with experience of working with children. These visits take the children through games and stories, designed to test their developmental skills (e.g. memory, language, self-control) and gather their views about school. As a small thank you for your time during the tasks and completing the parent questionnaire, we will send a £10 gift voucher.

Below is a summary of the parts of the study:

Participant	Setting	Description
Teacher	Questionnaire	Online or postal survey on school environment, classroom characteristics, parent-school communication and child adjustment
Child + Parent	Zoom call at home; 2 x paper-and-pen tasks	Memory games, stories (social understanding), language check and child-parent play – approx. 45 minutes. Two paper-and-pen tasks completed at home – approx. 15 minutes.
Parent	Questionnaire	Online or postal survey on parent wellbeing, family relationships, parent-school communication and child adjustment

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. While we do not anticipate any distress during the zoom session, we will ask the children at regular intervals whether they are happy to continue and offer short breaks as needed. Parents can also request a break on behalf of their child at any point or end the session if you want. Parents may also withdraw your child from the study without giving a reason by contacting us using the details at the end of this document.

In accordance with General Data Protection Regulation guidelines and the 2018 Data Protection Act, all survey and task data will be kept anonymous. Zoom recordings have end-to-end encryption and complies with GDPR. For more information, see:

<https://explore.zoom.us/en-us/trust/security.html> and <https://explore.zoom.us/en-us/trust/privacy.html>).

We will use the University Information Services (UIS) and Research File Share (RFS) to provide safe storage of electronic records collected by members of the University of Cambridge team. Only the research team and the University System Administrator at Cambridge and will have access to the data. Please follow this link for information about how the University of Cambridge use personal data:

<https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/research-participant-data>. 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. Hard copies of data will be securely stored in locked cabinets and will only be accessible to the Ready or Not research team.

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 each school and teacher will be given a unique study number. The unique study number, instead of your name, will be used to identify you 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 school's confidentiality will be maintained throughout. No identifying details about your school will be presented or published without prior consent.

Once the study has ended (March 2023), completely anonymised numeric data from the study will be shared with other researchers, in accordance with best practice. That is, study data will become "open data", 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 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 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.

University of Cambridge	University of Birmingham
Louise Gray	Dr Mikeda Jess
Research Assistant	Research Associate
readyornot@psychol.cam.ac.uk	ready.or.not@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Professor Claire Hughes	Dr Rory T. Devine
Study Lead for Cambridge	Study Lead for Birmingham
Centre for Family Research University of Cambridge Free School Lane Cambridge CB2 3RQ	School of Psychology University of Birmingham Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT
ch288@cam.ac.uk	R.T.Devine@bham.ac.uk

To find out more, visit our website at www.readyornotstudy.uk