

# READY OR NOT NEWSLETTER



## Our Progress So Far...

We have recently completed the first wave of the Ready or Not study, which began in Spring 2021, shortly after the Winter Lockdown. While we have had to transform our plans to accommodate school closures etc, we are thrilled by the success we have had.

Wave 1 included 261 families, who have each completed a warm-up parent Zoom visit and a main Zoom visit with the child. Reflecting on this first phase of our project, our first thought is one of gratitude to all the families who have given their time, shared their thoughts and encouraged their children to engage in a wide range of activities. We are always pleased to receive your feedback, and to address specific questions/concerns you may have. Please click on the link below to provide any further thoughts or feedback you may have. We are especially grateful for all your words of encouragement!

Nothing makes us happier than receiving positive feedback about the study Zoom visits and to hear that you are happy and keen to stay with the Ready or Not study!

**For the feedback form and other online content, scan the QR code or click the following link: <https://linktr.ee/RoNCambridge>**



## Our Zoom Visits...

We know that meeting families on Zoom can never be the same as face-to-face visits and so to make the sessions are as friendly and interactive as possible, we have undertaken a few measures.

1. Firstly, we have gathered parental descriptions of the child before the visit, so that we can tailor the tasks to child needs if required. We loved hearing everything you had to say and wanted to share just a few of our favourite amusing quotes with you!



*"She takes a little bit of coaxing to get some healthy food into her ... quite happy with chocolate though!"*

*"He tried to get out of tidying up in school by saying that he hurt his finger, and you can't tidy up if you've hurt your finger!"*

*"His thing that he wants to be when he grows up is a Roman soldier, we are yet to break it to him that this will not be possible"*

*"When she started school, she sort of walked in like the Queen"*

*"She'll play mums and dads and she'll spend ages you know tottering around in play high heeled shoes and a handbag, thinking she's going off to work and you're left holding the baby that you've got to sort of babysit."*

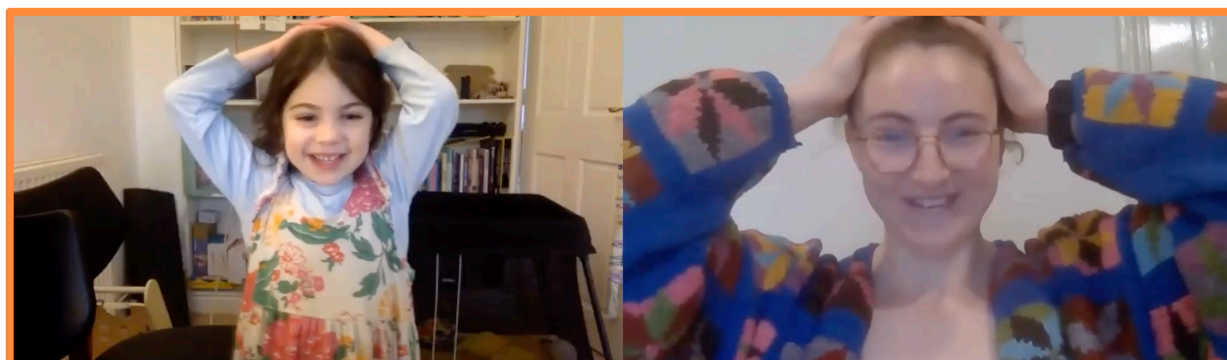


2. We have posted families an exciting pack of Zoom visit resources – including a range of reward stickers, a thank you gift of materials for pen and paper activities – and of course, a small gift for siblings too, so that no-one is left out!

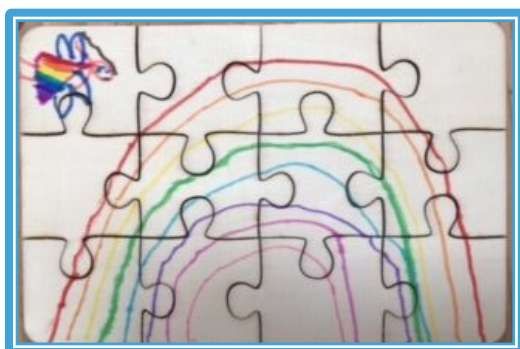
We thought it might be nice to show you what it looks like behind the scenes...



3. Throughout, we have adopted a team approach. Our undergraduate students have been off-camera assisting with the visits, so that the graduate researchers can direct all their attention to keeping the children engaged.



4. Lastly, we've invited families to share their children's artistic creations. So far, we've had some lovely photos of the puzzles coming in, and we have been featuring them both on our website (<https://readyornotstudy.uk/art-gallery>) and via our Facebook page every Monday morning! Here are a few to check out for inspiration...



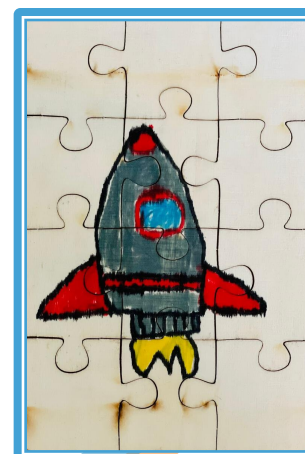
Something we're seeing a lot is rainbows - we love to see the colours you decide to use, and this admission even has an extra friend with extra colour!



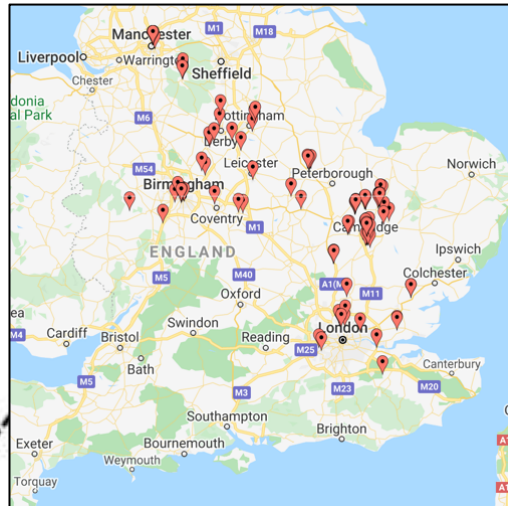
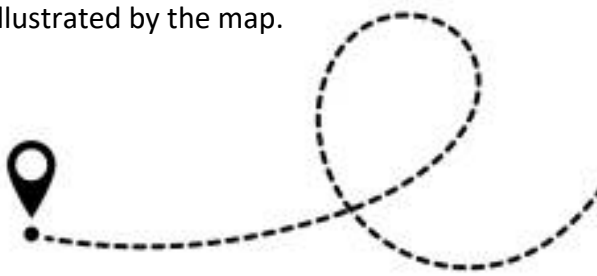
As well as rainbows, we're impressed how you incorporate different people, and even your stickers into each and every art work! This one has it all - stars, superheroes, and a friendly duo!



This jigsaw shows a rocket, tying perfectly into our space theme! Look at how neat that colouring is inside the lines!



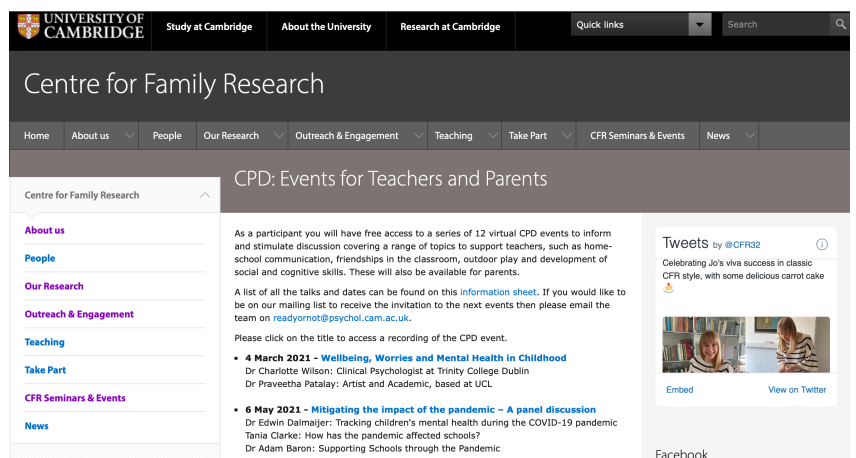
Of course, one big advantage of carrying out research via Zoom is that we have been able to include families from different parts of the country – as illustrated by the map.



To accompany the Zoom visits, we have also been holding virtual CPD events for parents and teachers. Scan the QR code below for a list of the talks to date, to

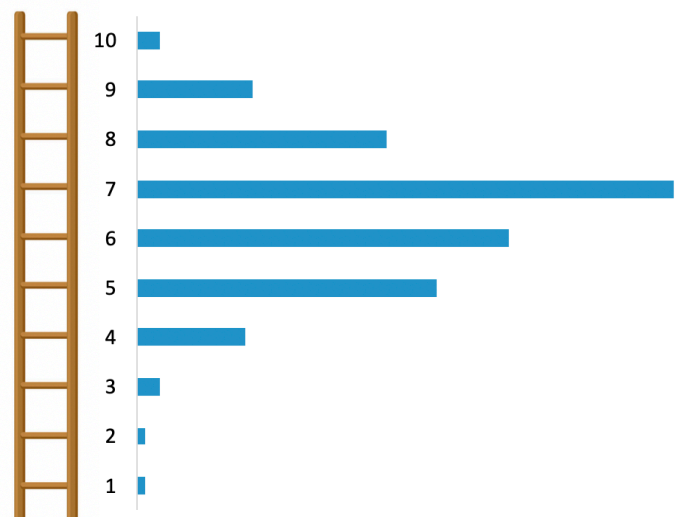


find out more and access recordings via the Centre for Family Research website.



### ***The Ready or Not Families in Numbers...***

So far we have a total of 261 (52% female, 48% male) Ready or Not children participating in the study, ranging in age from 4¾ years to 6¼ years. We received a great response from our Ready or Not parents, with 96% completing the questionnaires. Within this parent sample, 216 reported on their demographics. The figure on the right shows the spread of parent responses to the 'ladder of social standing'.

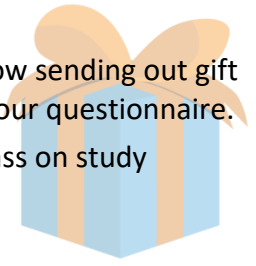


# What are we doing now...

## 1. Reaching out to teachers

Our best Zoom visit progress was made over the summer holidays. We are now sending out gift vouchers to show our appreciation for the teachers that were able to fill out our questionnaire.

We now need to expand our sample. **Can you help?** If you are able to pass on study postcards to the teachers at your child's school, please let us know at [readyornot@psychol.cam.ac.uk](mailto:readyornot@psychol.cam.ac.uk)

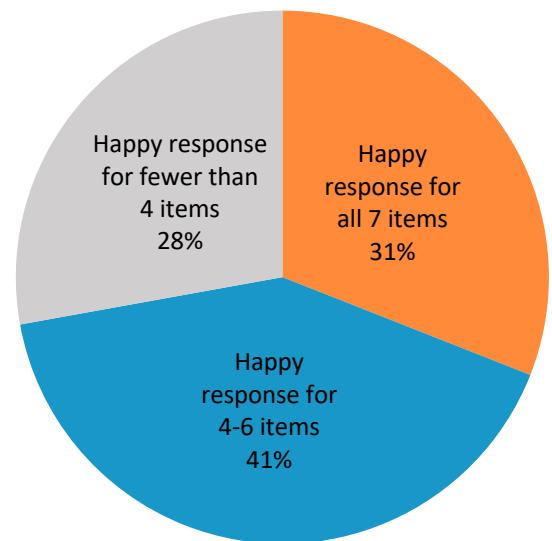


## 2. Checking and double checking our data

Before we begin our analyses, we are checking all our records to ensure that we have noted children's responses correctly - this is harder than it sounds as the camera view isn't always perfect and children can change their minds!

## 3. Comparing parents' and children's voices

The Ready or Not study children shared their views about how they are doing at school, both academically and socially. As shown in the pie chart, there was a roughly even mix, with 31% of children describing themselves as happy for every item; 41% were happy for at least half the items, and 28% described themselves as happy for less than half the items.



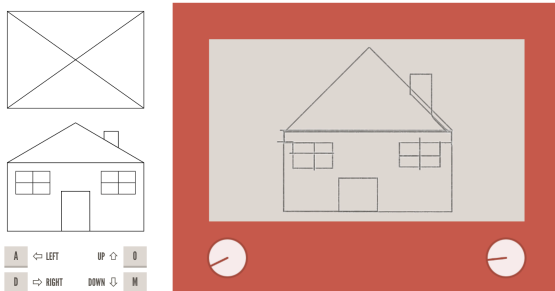
This is very much in line with previous findings, suggesting that the pandemic has not had a marked impact on children's happiness at school. Agreement between parents and children was good – but, as expected, stronger for some items (e.g., how the child feels on the way to school) than other items (how the child feels in the classroom).

## 4. LENA 'Talk-Pedometer' Study

Our partner study examining children's natural language environments is currently in full swing. So far 57 participants have completed a daylong recording with the help of our fun vests and devices! We've also received 24 additional LENA recordings from families with a child with Down Syndrome.



## 5. Exploring the Etch-a-Sketch



As the virtual version of the Etch-A-Sketch task is new, we are currently exploring different ways of coding the videos. We hope that this game will allow us to learn more about how children problem solve, and the ways in which parents support their child's problem-solving skills.

*We hope you've enjoyed this small update from the study so far. Thank you once again for taking part – this research wouldn't be possible without you! We look forward to seeing you again next year!*