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## INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

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### **Raising Reading Achievement in Australian Children:**

*Predicting literacy pathways using web-based screening and monitoring of essential pre-reading skills during the early childhood and schooling years*

#### **Investigator:**

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#### **Description of the study:**

This study is part of the project entitled '*Raising Reading Achievement in Australian Children*'. This project will investigate whether a series of web-based game-like tasks can help us to predict which children may or may not be more likely to experience challenges learning to read as they start school. To achieve this, we are looking for up to one-hundred four-year old children to have their early reading skills monitored over a two year period. This project is supported by the Faculty of Education, Humanities and Law at Flinders University.

#### **Purpose of the study:**

The aims of this project are to:

- Develop an easy-to-use web-based system that educators can use to predict which children may or may not be at-risk for later reading problems. This means that children who may be more likely to face challenges with reading acquisition can be supported earlier in their development.
- Profile the development of essential pre-reading skills among young South Australian children to increase understanding of how these skills develop.

### **What will my child be asked to do?**

Your child will be asked to participate in five short assessments separated by six-monthly intervals over a two year period. The type of assessment activity, location, and the age your child will be at each assessment point are detailed in the following table.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Child's Age</b>
1	40-minute spoken language assessment 5-10 minute evaluation of pre-reading skills using web-based tasks specifically designed for this project	Preschool, kindergarten, or a clinic at Flinders University	4 years 0 months to 4 years 3 months
2	5-10 minute evaluation of pre-reading skills using web-based tasks specifically designed for this project	Preschool, kindergarten, or a clinic at Flinders University	4 years 6 months
3	5-10 minute evaluation of pre-reading skills using web-based tasks specifically designed for this project	Preschool, kindergarten, or a clinic at Flinders University	5 years 0 months
4	5-10 minute evaluation of pre-reading skills using web-based tasks specifically designed for this project	School or a clinic at Flinders University	5 years 6 months
5	30-minute reading accuracy and comprehension assessment 5-10 minute evaluation of pre-reading skills using web-based tasks specifically designed for this project	School or a clinic at Flinders University	6 years 6 months

Please note that typically your child will be assessed at their preschool or kindergarten. However, you can choose to have all or some of the assessments conducted at a clinic at Flinders University where at least one parent/guardian must be present.

### **What are the benefits of having my child involved in this study?**

Your child will have the benefit of free screening and monitoring of their early reading skills, in addition to monthly progress reports informing you of your child's progress. In addition, your child will also be contributing to a dataset profiling how essential reading skills develop in young Australian children. This comparative dataset will help educators to identify children who may end up struggling with reading acquisition before difficulties have a chance to escalate. At the end of the study, you and your child will be offered the opportunity to participate in a workshop with Dr Karyn Carson if your child is showing poor progress in reading development.

### **Will my child be identifiable by being involved in this study?**

To ensure confidentiality, your child will be allocated an 'Identification Number' and a 'Location Number'. As your child participates in the five assessments their data will be stored on a

password protected computer only accessible to Dr Karyn Carson. After the study, all information will be stored for a period of seven years on a USB stick or external hard drive in a locked filing cabinet in a locked office at Flinders University. After this time all data will be destroyed. Please note that the results of this study will be published with all person information remaining confidential and anonymous.

### **Are there any risks or discomforts if my child is involved?**

It is anticipated that there are few risks from your child's involvement in this study. If you have any concerns regarding anticipated or actual risks or discomforts, please raise them with Dr Karyn Carson.

### **How do I agree for my child to participate?**

Participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your child from the study, including withdrawal of information, at any time. Your child will be asked at the start of each assessment session as to whether or not they wish to participate on that day by circling a sad or happy face on a child-friendly consent form. A parent/guardian consent form accompanies this information sheet. If you agree to participate please read and sign the form, and then put it in the 'Return Box' at your child's preschool/kindergarten. Alternatively you can post this form to: Dr Karyn Carson, School of Education, Faculty of Education, Humanities and Law, GPO Box 2100 Adelaide SA 5001 Australia, or scan and email the form to: [karyn.carson@flinders.edu.au](mailto:karyn.carson@flinders.edu.au)

### **How will I receive feedback?**

You will receive a short summary report outlining your child's performance at each six-monthly assessment point. At the end of the study, the outcomes of the study will be summarised and given to you by Dr Karyn Carson if you would like to view them.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and we hope that you will accept our invitation to be involved in this study.**

*This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project number 6107). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035 or by email [human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au](mailto:human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au)*