



Consent Form: *Language background and cognitive function in bilingual and monolingual children (#2020s0073)*

Who is conducting the study? Dr. Henny Yeung and his research assistants in Linguistics at Simon Fraser University. Questions can be sent to henny_yeung@sfu.ca.

Who is funding this study? This study is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council under their Partnership Grant program.

Why are we doing this study? We want to understand how different language backgrounds affect children's performance on tasks that require conflict resolution and understanding of the mechanisms of language. As a parent or legal guardian of a 2.5- to 6.5-year-old child, you are being invited to take part in this study.

Your participation is voluntary. You have the right to refuse participation in this study. Refusal to complete the study after agreeing to participate will not have any negative consequences for you or your infant/child. Furthermore, if your child does not want to participate or appears not to assent (e.g. crying, fussing, or otherwise refusing to participate), they will not be tested.

How is this study done? This study will include a maximum of 40 minutes of your time offline and an additional 25-30 minutes of your time online with you and your child (during a live video-call with one of our researchers) if you agree to participate. This total time of up to 70 minutes will be broken up as follows:

- We will ask you to fill out an online questionnaire regarding demographic information, the languages used in your household, etc. This electronic questionnaire will be sent to you before your scheduled video-call and will take about **20 minutes** to complete.
- We will also ask that you complete a vocabulary questionnaire with your child, which you will also be sent a link to prior to your scheduled video call. This is also estimated to take about **20 minutes**.
- You will also receive an email with information regarding the video-call portion of the study. This video-call will take place via the Zoom video conferencing platform, and you will have a virtual meeting with one of our researchers.
- During this virtual meeting, we will be doing a short exercise with your child to calibrate for optimal displays (5 minutes). Then your child will be asked to verbally answer a few brief questions about their language experience (**10 minutes**), perform one conflict resolution task (either a sorting task or a rhythm/clapping task) (~~40-5~~ **minutes**), and one language task (either a ~~word learning~~ social cue task or a pragmatics task) (**10 minutes**).

Depending on the language task your child completes, you will either be asked to close your eyes during the critical parts of the trial or wear headphones with audio playing throughout the task in order to prevent potential bias.

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- You and your child will be given specific instructions during the video call. **Your child will be recorded during this phase of the study** – this recording will be kept in a secure database and will only be accessed by members of our lab who have undergone ethical training.

Will you be paid for taking part in this research study? Your child will receive a small “prize” or gift certificate. If your child withdraws early, they will still receive this small prize or gift by post.

What are the risks & benefits of participating? We do not think that participating in this study could harm you or your child, and if your child becomes bored or frustrated with the task, we will stop the study. We do not think taking part in this study will help you or your child, but others may benefit from what we learn in the future, as we want to learn more about how different language backgrounds affect children’s development.

How will your privacy be maintained? Your confidentiality will be respected. Information that discloses your identity will not be released without your consent unless required by law. In addition:

- You and your child will not be identified by name in any completed study reports
- Study data will be kept in locked rooms or on password-protected computers and limited to the PI and his research assistants. Paper records will be destroyed after a max of 7 years.

IMPORTANT: With the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to carry out research operations in person at SFU campus. Therefore, we are running this study online – a result of this is that we will need to collect data via webcam. During your online video-call session, we will be recording a video of your child taking part in the three activities listed above (language interview, conflict task, language task). This video will be temporarily stored on local devices and will then be transferred over to our password protected, secure server at SFU. Research personnel have been given specific instructions to keep all data anonymized, and to have data stored on password protected devices (on encrypted hard drives if possible).

This interview is hosted by Zoom, a US company, and as such, is subject to the USA Patriot Act and CLOUD Act. No audio or video will be stored on Zoom’s servers, but these laws allow government authorities to access the records of host services and internet service providers. By choosing to participate, you understand that your participation in this study may become known to US federal agencies.

What if you decide to withdraw your consent to participate? You may withdraw your consent to participate in this study at any time without giving any reasons. If you enter the study, and then choose to withdraw your consent to participate at a later time, then study data collected about you and your child will be immediately destroyed.



Study results. The main study findings will be published in academic journal articles or presented at academic conferences. We will also try to let you know when the study is complete, and you will be able to review overall results of the study at a web link that we will send you.

Future use of participant data. Current best practices in research include open access initiatives, which involve the sharing of study data with researchers from other universities to stimulate the future use and exploration of existing data sets. This study's data will be uploaded to an online research repository upon completion, stripped of identifying information (name, email, etc.) to ensure confidentiality.

Public use of images. To describe what the study involves to other parents, or to other researchers, we ask you for permission to use images of you and/or your infant for research-related public dissemination (i.e., conference presentations, recruitment of other families for research, etc.). These images would be stored on password-protected computers for a maximum of 7 years, and access will be limited to the PI and his research assistants. After clicking "next", you will be prompted to indicate whether you permit this use of your image, as well as that of your child by selecting yes or no.

(NOTE: Due to the nature of digital images, once an image is disseminated to the public, the researcher does not have any control over how images will later be distributed and/or used).

Future contact. We may want to invite you to participate in future studies. You will be asked to check a box after clicking "Next" on whether you would like to opt in or out for us to contact you in the future for this purpose.

Parent/Guardian consent and signature. By clicking "Next", you agree that the above information has been explained to you and all your current questions have been answered. You understand that you may ask questions about any aspect of this research study during the course of the study and in the future.

Taking part in this study is voluntary. Both you and your child have the right to refuse to participate. If you take part, you or your child may pull out of the study at any time without giving a reason and without negative impact by sending an email to langdev@sfu.ca. By clicking on the "next" button on the screen, you indicate that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records, and that you consent to your child's study participation.

Contact for Complaints. Concerns about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, can be addressed by Dr. Jeffrey Toward, Director, Office of Research Ethics (jtoward@sfu.ca or 778-782-6593).