

**Honours Projects in conjunction with
Echoes, ClickEast and Standup
February 2012**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Information Sheet for Parents / Guardians

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

This research is part of a set of UG4 projects by Luke Brown, William Bradshaw, Aleksandar Lukic and Pierre Pauly, supervised by Helen Pain and Alyssa Alcorn. We are working with Dr Sue Fletcher-Watson, a psychologist based at Edinburgh University, on the Click-East research project, and with the Echoes team on the ECHOES research project. William's project builds on software developed as part of the STANDUP project. The research explores the use of computer games to support social communication in typically developing and children with autism. These games are being developed with the input of a range of individuals including teachers, parents, young people with autism and typically-developing children.

We would like to ask you and your child to help us test one or more of the computer games. At the start of each session, the researcher will explain to the child what will happen, and will give them a chance to ask questions. They will tell the child that they can take a break or stop at any time without having to give a reason. The child will then play with the game for about 15 minutes. Some of the games use a touch screen, so your child will not need to have well developed language skills, nor be able to read instructions – all instructions will be spoken in this case. Other games will require more language skills.

The Click-East and ECHOES projects have received ethical approval from the University of Edinburgh. This includes student projects. A copy of their report is available if you wish to see it. Please do discuss this issue with us if you have any concerns.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you would like to know more about this research and/or if you have questions, please feel free to contact Dr Helen Pain from the School of Informatics, (helen@inf.ed.ac.uk) or on 07974 971 475.

You can also find out more at the Click-East website, <http://www.clickeast.co.uk/> the ECHOES website, <http://www.echoes2.org>, and the Standup website, <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/jokingcomputer/>

Thank you very much.

Helen Pain, for the Click-East, Echoes and Standup Projects