

Parental Consent to Participate in a Research Study
The University of Western Ontario - London, ON

Title of Study:

Predicting reading ability with spoken language understanding in children

Investigators:

Dr. Marc Joanisse, Department of Psychology, 519-661-2111 x86582

Alexandra Cross, Psychology Graduate Student

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Introduction

- Your child is being asked to be in a research study of reading and spoken language development.
- We ask that you read this form and ask any questions that you may have before allowing your child to participate in this study.
- The purpose of the study is to investigate how spoken and written language develop in childhood.

Description of the Study Procedures

- Children participating in this study will be asked to listen to words, and match them to pictures on a computer screen. We will measure how quickly and accurately they can match each word that they hear. We will also measure how quickly they look at the correct picture on the screen using an eye tracker camera that records their eye movements. The eye tracker reflects an invisible light onto the eye in which slight changes in eye gaze can be detected and recorded. This eye tracker is a passive system that is mounted inside the computer display. It does not make contact with your child any way and only records eye movements. We will provide some practice before the actual study begins to be sure your child understands the activity.
- We will also ask your child to complete some short language tasks, in which your child will name letters, name sounds of letters, and repeat sentences they hear in headphones.
- Participating will take approximately 20 minutes.

Eligibility

- To participate in this study your child must speak English as a first language and use it daily.
- Your child must not have a sensory disorder that would preclude them from being able to perform the spoken word recognition task (i.e., individuals with significant hearing or visual loss), or a neurological disorder.

Risks/Discomforts of Being in this Study

- There are no known physical or psychological risks associated with this research. We will provide verbal encouragement and your child will know that they can stop participating at any time they wish. We will provide breaks during the session so they do not have to sit still for too long at one time.

Confidentiality

- The records of this study will be kept strictly confidential. Research records will be kept in a locked file, and all electronic information will be coded and secured using a password-protected file. We will not include any information in any report we may publish that would make it possible to identify your child. The only data that will be released are average scores across all participants in the experiment.
- Data will be stored for 5 years, after which it will be destroyed. If you wish us to destroy the data we collected from your child before this time, please contact us to let us know.

Payments

- Your child will receive a \$10 movie gift card as a thank-you for their participation in our study.

Right to Refuse or Withdraw

- The decision to participate in this study is entirely up to you and your child. Your child may refuse to take part in the study *at any time* without affecting your relationship with your school, the investigators of this study, The University of Western Ontario or losing benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Your child has the right not to participate, as well as to withdraw completely from the study at any point during the process.

Right to Ask Questions and Report Concerns

- You have the right to ask questions about this research study and to have those questions answered by me before, during or after the research. If you have any further questions about the study, at any time feel free to contact Dr. Marc Joanisse at marcj@uwo.ca, or by telephone at 519-661-2111 x86582. If you have any other concerns about your rights as a research participant that have not been answered by the investigators, you may contact the Director of the Office of Research Ethics at 519-661-3036.
- If you have any problems or concerns that occur as a result of your participation, you can report them to the Director of the Office of Research Ethics at the number above.

**Predicting reading ability with spoken language understanding
in children and adults**

Consent Form

Your signature below indicates that you have decided to allow your child to participate as a research subject for this study, and that you have read and understood the information provided above. You will be given a signed and dated copy of this form to keep, along with any other printed materials deemed necessary by the study investigators.

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Name of Child (print):

Name of Parent/Guardian (print):

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Investigator(s): _____

Date: _____

Information for Children 3-5 – to be read to children as part of obtaining verbal assent

Predicting reading ability with spoken language understanding in children and adults

Why you are here.

I want to tell you about a study looking at how people understand words spoken out loud. We want to see if you would like to be in this study. My name is Alex and this is a project I'm doing for school.

Why are they doing this study?

We want to see if certain ways of speaking make it easier or harder for kids to recognize words. You are able to be in this study because you are the right age!

What will happen to you?

If you choose to help with our project, you will see two pictures on the computer screen and hear only one word. When you know what the word is, you will press a button on the computer for the picture of that word. You can practice before we start.

Will there be any tests?

No there will not be any tests.

Will it hurt?

No, this study will not hurt you. If the sound is too loud on the computer, let me know and I will turn it down.

Will this study help you?

No, but in the future it might help other kids who are having trouble understanding spoken words.

What if you have any questions?

You can ask questions at any time. If you have any questions now or during the study, you can ask me. If you have any questions after the study, you ask your teachers, family, or someone else.

Do you have to be in this study?

You do not have to be in this study if you don't want to. If you decide you want to now but change your mind later that's okay to! It's up to you.

Do you understand? Do you have any questions about this?