

Children's Metacognition:

Are older children more aware of making mistakes when carrying out a task compared to younger children? Do they also have more awareness about how they learn best?

Introduction

My name is Becky Jenkin and I am a student based at the University of Exeter. I am currently completing my training to become a Clinical Psychologist. As part of this I am carrying out a research project, about children's metacognition, how they think about their thinking. It is looking at whether children become more aware at noticing when they make mistakes on a task as they get older. The project has been reviewed by the University of Exeter Psychology Ethics Committee.

Why have I been approached?

We have been approaching schools in Devon and Somerset to see if they would be interested in taking part in the study. Your child's school has agreed to help with my research. **This information leaflet has been sent to ALL children in your child's class.** The school has not given us any information about any child, and they are sending you this leaflet on our behalf.

What will happen during the study?

Your child will be asked to do some activities with Becky, which will take about 45 minutes. This will happen during school time. This is happening with children between the ages of 7 and 14 years old. The scores will be compared to see how children's thinking changes as they get older.

All children will be asked to complete activities looking at their abilities to predict and evaluate what they are carrying out. There will also be an activity that looks at their ability to detect errors. The answers they give during these activities will be recorded by Becky. Overall this data should teach us more about how children think about their own thinking style.

The tasks the children complete are set up as **puzzles and games**, which are **suitable for their age**. They are **not being tested** on their overall intelligence – we are only comparing the results of the measures by age.

Your child can decide not to take part, or choose to stop the study at any point. This will be told to them at the start of the study.

Permission that is required

The headteacher at your child's school, and also your child's teacher, have given permission for the study to go ahead. I am contacting all parents in your child's class to see if they would be willing to let their child take part. Whether your child does or not is entirely up to you.



If you are happy for your child to take part then **please sign the form that comes with this leaflet, and hand it back into the reception desk at your school or to your child's teacher.**



If you do not want your child to take part you do not need to do anything. **Children will not take part in the research without parent/carer permission.**

Can the school, individual children or teachers change our minds and withdraw from the study?

Yes. The school, children and teachers are free to withdraw from the study at any point, without giving a reason, and without legal rights being affected.

What are the benefits of taking part?

This research fits within the science curriculum (working scientifically), teaching children about scientific attitudes and experimental skills and investigations.

What if I do not want my child to take part?

You do not need to do anything, as parent/carer consent is required for every child who takes part in the study.

Confidentiality and security of Information

All information that we collect about each child will be kept confidential and anonymous, unless doing so would put anyone at risk of serious harm. In accordance with the research ethical guidance of the University of Exeter Psychology Ethics Committee the information collected in the study will be used for research purposes only and stored securely, in a locked filing cabinet or on a password protected laptop. All data will be treated anonymously and destroyed 5 years after publication.

The data collected during the study may be looked at by members of the research team. We will aim to publish the findings from this study so other people working in this area can learn about our work. All schools and children taking part will be completely anonymous in the study, and will not be identified in any publication. Anonymised data may also be shared with other researchers in the future.

The University of Exeter processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the public interest. The University will endeavour to be transparent about its processing of your personal data and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have any queries about the University's processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the research team, further information may be obtained from the University's Data Protection Officer by emailing dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk or at www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection

Any questions?

If you have any questions about this study, either now or in the future, please contact:

Becky Jenkin

DClinPsy student

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Jenny Limond

Senior lecturer at the University of Exeter
(Supervisor on this project)

J.Limond@exeter.ac.uk

Complaints

If you have any complaints about the way in which this study has been carried out please contact the Chair of the University of Exeter Psychology Ethics Committee:-

Lisa Leaver

Chair, UoE Psychology Ethics Committee

l.a.leaver@ex.ac.uk

Thank you very much for considering this request.