

Informed Consent Agreement (Children)

Please read this consent agreement carefully before you decide to participate in the study.

The **purpose of this research study** is to investigate how children make sense of category information provided through language. In particular, we are interested in whether the label applied to an object can change how children think about that object. For example, does hearing a penguin referred to as a “bird” lead children to expect it to do the same kinds of things that other, more typical birds do?

What your child will do in the study is to play a game that involves looking at pictures or objects and interacting with a researcher. Occasionally, the researcher may say something that is unexpected from the child’s point of view (e.g., a picture of a cat-like animal might be referred to as a “dog”). Later, we will ask your child questions designed to see whether the unexpected information was incorporated into his or her category structure (e.g., we might ask whether the cat-like animal referred to as a “dog” eats bones or drinks milk). Your child will be videotaped during the study, and his or her responses coded at a later point in time. Parents who participate by bringing their child to the laboratory may also be asked to complete and return a brief vocabulary inventory.

The **time required** for your child’s participation will be one or two 10- to 15-minute sessions, for a maximum total time of 30 minutes. Parents who are asked to complete the vocabulary inventory will need approximately 20 minutes to do so.

There are no **risks** to your child from participating in this study, other than the very minor one of hearing a made-up word for an object (e.g., a whisk referred to as a “blicket,” similar to words used in Dr. Seuss books), or hearing a particular piece of information used in an unexpected way (e.g., a cat-like animal referred to as a “dog”). When children hear information that is unexpected, the researcher will thoroughly and carefully make a correction at the end of the session so that all children leave the study assured that, for example, the cat-like animal might be a cat. In our experience and review of the literature, any resulting learning from the unexpected information is very short-lived—at most, children might be mildly confused for a short time, and in fact, children often find such errors to be amusing.

There are no direct **benefits** to you or your child for participating, other than that children typically enjoy the game-like atmosphere. The study may help us understand how children make sense of new (and sometimes unexpected) information.

The information that your child provides in the study and his/her videotape will be kept completely **confidential**. Each child will be assigned a code number, and the list connecting his/her name to this code will be kept in a locked file. When the study is completed and the data have been analyzed, this list will be destroyed. The videotapes will be archived for later analysis, and unless you have given explicit permission for the video to be shown in research presentations via a separate consent form, the videotapes will be viewed only by trained research assistants. Your child’s name will never be used in any report of this research.

You and your child’s participation in this study is completely **voluntary**. You and/or your child have the **right to stop the study and/or withdraw from it** at any time without penalty. If you or your child chooses to withdraw from the study, all video and data from your child’s session will be destroyed. **If at any point you or your child want to stop participating or to withdraw from the study**, simply tell the researcher and the session will be ended immediately. There is no penalty for withdrawing.

You will receive no **payment** for participating in the study.

For questions about the study, contact:

Dr. Vikram Jaswal, Asst. Professor of Psychology
Psychology Department
University of Virginia
102 Gilmer Hall
P.O. Box 400400
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4400

(434) 982-4709
jaswal@virginia.edu

For questions about your rights in the study, contact:

Dr. Luke Kelly, Chairman
Institutional Review Board, Social and Behavioral
Sciences
2400 Old Ivy Road, Suite C141, Room 156
University of Virginia
P.O. Box 800392
Charlottesville, VA 22908-0392

(434) 243-2915

Agreement:

I give permission _____ I do not give permission _____
for my child _____ (Name) to participate in the study described above.

Child's birthdate: _____

Teacher's name (if applicable): _____

Parent's signature: _____

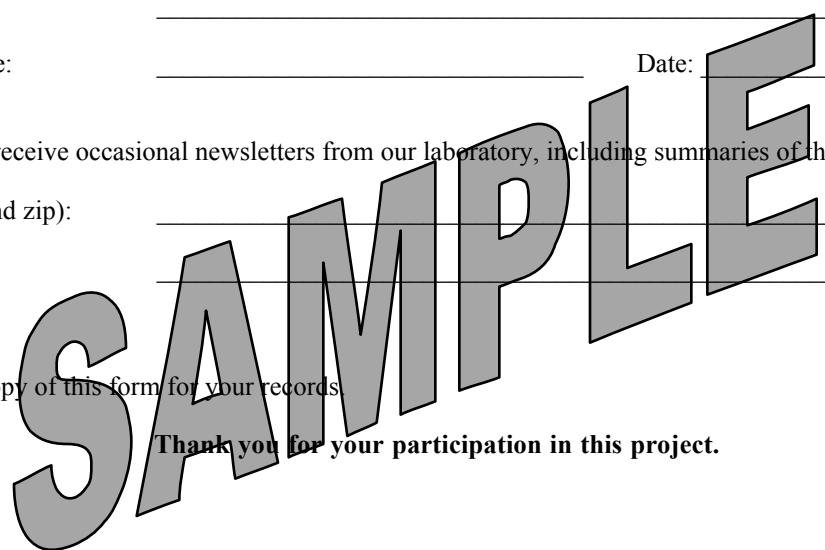
Parent's printed name: _____ Date: _____

If you would like to receive occasional newsletters from our laboratory, including summaries of the results:

Address (incl. city and zip): _____

email address: _____

You will receive a copy of this form for your records.



Thank you for your participation in this project.