

Parent/Guardian Information Sheet

“Activities that I Enjoy”

RESEARCHER: Lisa Whiting, University of Hertfordshire

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. My name is Lisa Whiting. I am a Registered Children's Nurse, employed as a Principal Lecturer in Children's Nursing at the University of Hertfordshire. The information contained in this sheet relates to a research study that I am undertaking as part of a Doctorate in Health Research at the University of Hertfordshire.

Your child is being invited to take part in the study, but before you decide whether or not to agree to this, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully; talk to others about the study if you wish. There is an information sheet attached for your child. It is important that they also understand the research and decide whether or not they would like to take part. Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the study?

This study aims to identify the activities that children enjoy doing. This will help us to learn more about the lives of children so that their future health and wellbeing can be improved. The information gained from the study will be used to inform professional colleagues as well as relevant organisations.

What is involved?

- Your child will be provided with a disposable camera and asked to take photographs of the activities that they enjoy; this can include indoor or outdoor games that they like playing; things they like doing with their friends or family, as well as everyday activities like helping with the shopping.
- I will collect the camera from your child; the photographs will be developed and your child will be invited to meet with me to talk about their pictures and why they chose to take them. These interviews are important as they will help me to understand more about the photographs. With you and your child's permission, the interview will be recorded and written transcripts will be created.
- If you are happy for your child to participate in the study, please give them the attached information sheet and discuss it with them.

What will happen with the information?

The photographs, interview recordings and transcripts will only be accessible to myself and my supervisors and will be kept securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act. At the end of the study, the transcripts will not identify your child as a false name will be used; the photographs will be returned to your child, but I will ask if s/he could choose two or three for me to keep. The photographs that I keep, and an analysis of the information gained from the children participating in the research study, will be used when I write my final report; part of this, may be presented at conferences and published in professional magazines. Your child will be provided with a summary report that summarises the research and you are welcome to see a full copy.

Why has my child been chosen?

The research study is being conducted with children who are in year 5 and your child is in this class. The Head Teacher knows about this research study and how it is to be conducted.

Does my child have to take part?

No. Your child does not have to take part in this study; it is entirely up to you and your child to decide.

If, after careful consideration, you do decide that you would like your child to take part (and s/he is in agreement), you will need to indicate this decision on the tear off slip at the end of this information sheet and return it in the attached stamped addressed envelope. I will then contact you by telephone to give you more details and to arrange a meeting with you and your child to sign a consent form.

What are at the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no foreseeable risks to your child. However, if a situation arises during the research that I feel requires professional attention, I will be obliged to refer the matter on. I would not do so without informing you.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

It is important that children are given the chance to express their views and that these are taken into account when policies are developed. This research will give that opportunity; although, the study may not specifically benefit you or your child, it could provide important information for the future.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research has been organised by me, Lisa Whiting; it is funded partly by the University of Hertfordshire and partly by myself; I am not receiving any external sponsorship. The research has been approved by the University of Hertfordshire Ethics Committee and I have clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau to work with children.

What if you have some questions about the study?

If you would like to find out more about this study before agreeing to your child taking part, you can contact me via the e-mail or telephone numbers detailed below. You may have to leave a message, but I will get back to you as soon as possible:

Lisa Whiting,
Tel: 01707 285291
Email: L.Whiting@herts.ac.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Whiting

Parent/Guardian Name:

Child's Name:

I confirm that I have read the information sheet and agree to be contacted to discuss my child's possible involvement in the above study.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Telephone Number(s):