



Participant Information Sheet – Parents

Project Title: Sensory Processing in NSW School Children

Project Summary:

This project is a descriptive study which aims to investigate the nature of sensory processing difficulties in Australian primary school children. Sensory processing involves the intake and registration of information from the environment through the senses, for example sound, vision, touch, taste, smell and movement. Difficulties processing sensory information can result in difficulties in classroom participation and success for some children.

You are invited to participate in this study because your child is aged 5-10 years, is in years K-4 and attends a mainstream primary school in NSW.

This study is being conducted by Caroline Mills, Lecturer, Western Sydney University, Dr Christine Chapparo, Senior Lecturer, The University of Sydney and Dr Joanne Hinitt, Lecturer, The University of Sydney. All researchers are registered occupational therapists.

How is the study being paid for?

This project is being funded by the School of Science and Health, Occupational Therapy at Western Sydney University.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about yourself and your child. You will also be asked to complete a Short Sensory Profile 2, a standardised questionnaire consisting of 34 questions about your child.

Your child's teacher will be completing a similar teacher version of this questionnaire based on their knowledge of your child.

If you need help with English language, you may like to have a friend or a family member help you read the forms and write your responses.

How much of my time will I need to give?

It is estimated that your participation will take no more than 45 minutes of your time.

What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?

You will be given a short summary of the results from your child's standardised assessment for free. Your participation will also help to gain a description of sensory processing in primary school aged children generally. This may guide future

research projects assisting children who may have sensory processing difficulties affecting their classroom participation.

Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?

There is a risk that your child may be identified as having sensory processing difficulties through the process of completing standardised questionnaires. If this occurs, researchers will provide you with further information for suitable health professionals you can access if you would like to. In addition, you may feel inconvenienced by the time taken to complete the questionnaires.

How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you or your child cannot be identified. Yours and your child's personal information will only be viewed by the research team at Western Sydney University and The University of Sydney and will be stored in a filing cabinet in a locked office at Western Sydney University.

Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?

Please be assured that only the researchers will have access to the raw data you provide. However, your data may be used in other related projects for an extended period of time. This may include future research project studying sensory processing in school aged children.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary and you are not obliged to be involved. If you do participate you can withdraw at any time without giving reason. You can decide to withdraw by not returning forms to researchers.

If you do choose to withdraw, any information that you have supplied can be withdrawn at your request.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by providing them with the Chief Investigator's contact details. They can contact the Chief Investigator to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain a copy of the information sheet.

Should I tell my child about the study?

Since you will be completing information about your child, you may want to talk to your child about the study. It is up to you whether you wish to talk to your child about the study. Here is an example of what you could say: "I am filling in some written

information for researchers who are studying how children learn and behave in classrooms. The researchers are trying to get information about some learning and behaviour problems that some children have so they can develop programs in the future which might help children behave and learn better.”

What if I require further information?

Please contact Caroline Mills, (caroline.mills@westernsydney.edu.au; or 0246 203 333) should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether or not to participate. You can also contact Dr Christine Chapparo (chris.chapparo@sydney.edu.au) for further information.

What if I have a complaint?

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through Research Engagement, Development and Innovation (REDI) on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 or email humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep and the consent form is retained by the researcher/s.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H12967.