

# **THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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Parenting Lab

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## **Consent Form**

### **Parenting Cognitions and Child Behaviour**

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this study is to examine how mothers and fathers from two-parent families think about child behavior and how these thoughts relate to child and parent behavior. Parents with children 6 to 12 years old are asked to participate. This project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

#### **Project Procedures:**

This study involves you completing online questionnaires and three computer tasks.

For the first computer task, you will be asked several times to remember a string of numbers while reading a short hypothetical story about your child. After you have read each story, you will answer three questions about the reasons for your child's behavior, and then be asked to recall the string of numbers. Some parents will be randomly assigned to remember difficult number strings and some parents will be randomly assigned to remember easy number strings.

The second and third computer tasks will ask you to categorize different words/phrases that are presented very quickly. One task will present a short hypothetical story about your child and then will ask you to sort different words/phrases. You will be categorizing words/phrases associated with your child (e.g., your child's name, 'son'/'daughter'), and both 'accidental' and 'intentional' words/phrases. The other task will ask you to categorize 'good' and 'bad' words that describe people.

The five different names/nicknames that you call your child by have been integrated into some of these computer tasks. Each task will include practice trials to familiarize you with the instructions and how to respond. The three computer tasks take about 30 minutes total to complete.

The questionnaires will take approximately 30-40 minutes and gather information regarding the following:

- General information about your family (e.g., your child's age, your occupation, education, income, and ethnicity)

- Your relationship with your child, your child's behaviour, and your thoughts about your child's behaviour
- Your parenting and your partner's parenting
- Your own characteristics

### **Risks:**

Your responses to the questionnaire items are voluntary; if you are feeling uncomfortable answering the questions you may select N/A (not applicable.) Some of the questions you will be asked deal with personal information such as child misbehaviour. Some parents may become upset when thinking about such things. Similarly, some parents may find that completing the computer tasks leads to awareness of attitudes towards their child that may make them uncomfortable.

Participation in the study is completely voluntary. You are free to stop at any time during the study. At the end of the study, you will be provided with a list of resources that may be helpful to you and/or your child should you be dealing with stressful or difficult circumstances.

### **Confidentiality:**

All information gathered in this study will be treated with the strictest confidence. Your questionnaires will be identified with a code number rather than your name, and these measures will be stored in password protected, encrypted computer files on the University of British Columbia server. Research information which identifies you will be available only to Dr. Johnston and the research assistants and is stored in locked file cabinets in a locked research room.

One limit to confidentiality is that, if the researchers suspect or have information disclosed to them about possible child abuse or neglect, they are required by law to report that information to the proper child authorities.

In addition, this online survey is hosted by a websurvey company located in the USA and as such is subject to U.S. laws. In particular, the US Patriot Act which allows authorities access to the records of Internet service providers. This survey does not ask for direct personal identifiers. However, the websurvey company servers record incoming IP addresses of the computer that you use to access the survey. If you choose to participate in the survey, you understand that your responses to the survey questions will be stored and may be accessed in the USA. The security and privacy policy for the websurvey company can be found at the following links:

<http://www.qualtrics.com/security-statement/>  
<http://www.qualtrics.com/privacy-statement/>

**Compensation:**

Each parent will receive \$10 upon completion of the study and an additional \$5 once the other parent has completed the study. Thus, each family will receive \$30 total if both parents participate in the study.

A summary of the overall results of the study will be provided in Dr. Johnston's lab newsletter, which you can indicate you would like to receive following the completion of the study.

**Contact for information about the project:**

Please feel free to contact the Parenting Lab at (604) 822-9037 or Dr. Charlotte Johnston at (604) 822-6771 if you have any questions or concerns. If outside of the Greater Vancouver area, call toll-free 1-866-558-5581.

**Contact for concerns about the rights of research subjects:**

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or call toll-free 1-877-822-8598.

**Consent:**

Your participation in this project is strictly voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time.

By clicking the "Yes, I agree" button, I acknowledge that I have read and understood to my satisfaction the information regarding my participation in the research project and agree to participate.