



SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY and INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Participant Information Sheet

Title of the research study: Phoenix Park Goes Wild

The formation of multisensory object categories in children and adults: An online investigation

Thank you for considering having your child take part in this research study. Before deciding if you would like to enrol, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If anything is unclear, please contact the researcher for clarification (Eimear McKenna: mckennei@tcd.ie).

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to understand how objects are recognised using visual and auditory information (i.e. the shape and sound of the object).

Your participation

You have been approached about this research because you have been identified as the parent/guardian of a child aged between 4 and 12 years of age. The study involves the presentation of visual stimuli and auditory stimuli, often with detail, so if *your child* has a diagnosed sight or hearing impairment that would affect their ability to see or hear the stimuli then we do not recommend participation in this study.

The participation of your child, in this project is voluntary. If you do decide to take part, after reading this information, please tick the appropriate consent box when prompted.

Even if you tick the consent box and start the task, you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue your child's participation in this study at any stage before or during the experiment without any questions being asked by us.

To discontinue the study during the task press the "Esc" key on your computer or close the browser window on your device at any time. Immediately following the task, your data will be stored as anonymous so that they cannot be linked to you in any way.

What will happen if you consent to the study?

For this study, you will need a quiet room and a computer or tablet with working audio output (or headphones/earphones) and access to the internet. You will receive a weblink that will take you directly to the online experiment and short questionnaire. In total the experiment should last no longer than 10 minutes, with a break.

Experiment

The experiment will involve answering some initial questions followed by an online task:

First we will ask you to provide some basic demographic details about your child: Male/Female, age, whether or not they have normal vision or wear glasses, and handedness.

Task example: your child will be asked to categorise a set of objects from either their image, sound or both their image and sound presented together. For example, your child might be shown an image of an animal on its own, the sound of an animal on its own or both the animal image and sound together. For each presentation, your child will categorise it into one of two categories (e.g. farm animal or pet animal). Your child will be asked to perform the task as quickly and as accurately as possible.

You have the right to have your questions about the procedures answered (unless answering these questions would interfere with the study's outcome). If you have any questions as a result of reading this information sheet, you should ask the researcher before the consenting to partake in the study. All procedures will be explained again before commencement of each experiment.

Benefits of participation

There are no known direct benefits to participating in this experiment. Instead, by participating you will be helping towards a better understanding of how our brains take in information from our senses to make meaningful interpretations of that information.

Risks of participation

There are no physical or social risks involved in taking part in this study. Any risks involved in participating in this study are no greater than the risks you encounter in everyday life.

What will happen with your personal details?

We do not ask you for, nor take a record of, your child's personal data. Upon completion of the task your data are assigned a unique ID (not your name) that cannot be linked to you. All the information that we collect about your child during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential and stored on our secure computers or in folders locked in secure filing cabinets located in the multisensory lab/testing suite at TCIN. Only the research team and principal investigator will have access to these data.

During dissemination, the data presented in talks or papers will never feature information about individual participants, only anonymous ID numbers.

Note that confidentiality of collected information may only be breached if:

- The research team has a strong belief or evidence exists that there is a serious risk of harm or danger to either the participant or another individual.
- Disclosure is required as part of a legal process or Garda investigation. Where possible, a full explanation will be given to the participant regarding the necessary procedures and also the intended actions that may need to be taken.

Where will the research take place?

The study will take part online in a quiet room of your choosing.

What if you have any concerns?

If you have any concerns or complaints arising from this research study, please contact a member of the researcher team (contact details below).

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