

**Brown University**  
**Child Language Study: Parental Consent Form**

**1. The Project**

The purpose of this research project is to investigate children's early acquisition of language. This research will be conducted by Dr. Katherine Demuth and her research assistants. We are looking for children to take part in this study who are aged between 1-4 years, have normal hearing and no known language or cognitive problems, and come from a household where the primary caregivers are native speakers of American English. Testing will take place either at Brown University (Child Language Lab or Metcalf Infant Research Lab), or in a quiet room at preschools/day care.

**2. What will be done**

In some cases, you and your child will be invited to participate in a speaking task. Your child will join the experimenter in looking at a picture book, playing with some toys, or watching a video. Your child will then be asked to repeat what the experimenter or the video said, or to answer questions about what happened or what they saw. Your child will be asked to wear a child-sized backpack and attach a wireless microphone to their collar to ensure good quality recordings.

Each procedure will last approximately 20 minutes. If your child gets upset, or if you feel uncomfortable for any reason, let the experimenter know and we will stop the procedure. Your participation in the project is entirely voluntary and any decision you make to stop the procedure will not result in any loss of benefits. Your child will receive a small gift for their participation in this study whether they complete it or not.

Before the study begins, we will ask you to take a few minutes to fill out the attached MacArthur Short Form Vocabulary Checklist – a form that assesses your child's knowledge of vocabulary and a brief Language Questionnaire.

**3. Risks or Discomforts**

There are no known risks or discomforts to the participants in this project.

**4. Benefits**

There are no known benefits to the participants in this project.

**5. Confidentiality**

Participation in this study and information gathered from the study will be kept confidential to the extent of the law. The findings of the study may be published, but individual participants will not be identified. All audiotapes will be kept at the research labs for use by Dr. Demuth and her research assistants. It should be noted, however, that U.S. law requires reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect to the authorities.

**6. Decision to participate and the right to quit at any time**

Participation is voluntary and the participant may quit at any time. A decision to quit the study will not affect any future relationship with Dr. Demuth or Brown University.

**7. Who to call**

Questions about the study should be directed to Dr. Katherine Demuth at (401) 863-1053, and her assistants at the Child Language Lab, Brown University (401) 863-2410, or by visiting our website at [www.cog.brown.edu/Research/childLanguage](http://www.cog.brown.edu/Research/childLanguage). If you have questions regarding your/your child’s rights as participants you may call Brown University’s Research Protections Office (RPO) and Toll Free number 1-866-309-2095 (for use within the Continental United States and Canada).

**8. Consent to Participate**

I HAVE READ THE CONSENT FORM AND FULLY UNDERSTAND IT. ALL MY QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED. I AGREE TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY, AND I WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS COMPLETED FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent’s signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person explaining study  
(print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent’s phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of person explaining study

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of child and birthdate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Race of child (optional)

**PLEASE SIGN AND KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS**