



CHILDREN'S USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND THEIR SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you and we thank you for considering our request.

What is the Aim of the Project?

The aim of the project is to examine children's social media use from a young age and its relation to social understanding (e.g., emotion recognition).

What Type of Participants are being sought?

We are recruiting children, mainly from 6 to 12 years of age, but all interested children are welcome. Should you wish to know your child's results, you can send an email to ted.ruffman@otago.ac.nz.

What will Participants be Asked to Do?

Should you agree for your child to take part in this project, s/he will be asked to answer questions about their use of social media, and also, look at pictures of people and say what they are feeling or thinking. This will take about 15 minutes. We would like to measure changes over time so we ask you to continue with the study over six time points, ever six months apart. Of course you can re-evaluate your child's participation in this study at any time and withdraw, and at each timepoint, your child can pause and rest anytime.

There is no identified risk involved in this study. Also, please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the project without any disadvantage of any kind.

What Data or Information will be Collected and What Use will be Made of it?

We need to know participants' gender and age because we are interested in potential differences across girls and boys, and at different ages. We are also interested in parents' educational attainment because this demographic information is essential to publish our findings. Participants will not be audio- or video-recorded. The data is for academic analysis only and there will be no commercial use of the data. The data collected will be

securely stored in a password-protected computer and server that only researchers in this project will have access to the data, that includes the principal investigator and student researchers (BSc students). Data obtained as a result of the research will be retained for **at least 10 years** in secure storage. The results of the project may be published in an academic journal, and will be available in the University of Otago Library (Dunedin, New Zealand) but every attempt will be made to ensure that you will not be identified. If you would like to withdraw your data (or your child's data) from the project, please let us know by July 1st, 2025.

Can Participants Change their Mind and Withdraw from the Project?

Your child may withdraw from participation in the project at any time and without any disadvantage of any kind.

What if Participants have any Questions?

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact:

Prof Ted Ruffman

Department of Psychology

University Telephone Number: - 03 479-7670

ted.ruffman@otago.ac.nz

This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee - Te Pae Matatika Tangata, Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka. If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research, you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph +64-3-479 8256 or humanethics@otago.ac.nz). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.



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CONSENT FORM FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

I have read the Information Sheet concerning this project and understand what it is about. All my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that I am free to request further information at any stage.

I know that:-

1. My child's participation in the project is entirely voluntary;
2. I am free to withdraw my child from the project at any time without any disadvantage;
3. Personal identifying information may be destroyed at the conclusion of the project but any raw data on which the results of the project depend will be retained in secure storage for at least five years;
4. The results of the project may be published and will be available in the University of Otago Library (Dunedin, New Zealand) but every attempt will be made to preserve my child's anonymity.

I agree for my child to take part in this project.

.....
(Signature of parent/guardian)

.....
(Date)

.....
E-Mail Address of Parent

.....
Phone Number of Parent

.....
(Name of child)

.....
Child's Date of Birth

.....
Child's Gender

.....
Name of person giving consent

.....
Parent's Highest Education Level

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