**Information Sheet and Consent Form for typically developing participants**

**aged 14-16 yrs**

## We Need Your Help!

## The Effect of Early Experiences on Development

Hi, my name is x and I would like to invite you to take part in my research study. At the University where I study, University College London (also known as UCL), we are trying to learn more about how teenagers differ in the way they understand and react to emotional and social information in their environment. We would like to know whether teenagers who had many bad experiences in childhood react differently to this information than teenagers who have not had many bad experiences in childhood.

**Why is this study being done?**

We hope that this research will in future help young people who have had good and bad experiences deal with these problems more effectively. We also hope that with your help and that of other teenagers, we will develop better ways to treat children who do suffer from emotional and mental health difficulties because of their bad experiences.

**What will happen if I take part?**

If you agree to be in this study, you will spend about a little over 1 hour with me in school and do some simple games on a computer. You will, for example, play a game where you bet with virtual money. These tasks are made to be fun and not too difficult. You will need to look at the computer screen and press buttons when you do the tasks; a lot like when you play computer games. You will also be asked to do some pen and paper tasks that are made for teenagers of your age. Some of these will, for example, look at how you understand other people’s emotions or thoughts. Finally, we will ask you to fill in some questionnaires that ask questions about your own emotions and attitudes about different situations, about conflicts you may have experienced at home and also about aggression you may have seen in your neighbourhood. All of this information is collected in the strictest confidence.

Because we are interested in understanding how genes can have an effect on people’s development, we would like to take a cheek swab of your DNA. A cheek swab involves you rubbing some cotton wool bud inside your cheek for about 20 seconds each. It is fast and painless (it may tickle a little). It is important for you to know that no one else apart from the researchers in this study will have access to your DNA. We will not give this information to anyone else.

We would also like to get in touch with you again, in about one year’s time. We are interested in seeing how similar or different your responses to the games and questionnaires will be in one year. You do not have to decide now whether you want to take part again and we will get in touch with your parent first to see if you would like to see us again later.

**Do I have to take part in this study?**

Remember, being in this study is up to you. Even if your parents give their permission for you to participate in this study, you still can decide for yourself if you want to take part. You don’t have to be in this study you don’t want to! Have a chat with your family or with others about taking part in the study to see if you want to participate.

If you do wish to participate please sign the consent form attached. We will talk to your teachers so that you do not miss any important lessons at school. It is important for you to know that even if you take part in the study and you sign the consent form you can still stop at any time without giving a reason.

**Will information about me be available to anyone?**

The information that we collect from you is confidential and anonymous and will remain so unless required by law. Only members of our team will be able to access this information. Your school or your parents will not have access to the information we collect. In our findings we will discuss the results of many teenagers - we do not single out or name any one participant. This project has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee.

You can ask any questions that you have about the study. If you have a question that you didn’t think of now, you can ask it later. You can contact me at x or by email at x if you need any more information about the study. If for some reason you cannot reach me, you can call x or send her an email at x

***Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.***

***Your help makes our research possible!***

## Picture 6

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**Please tick (√) appropriate box:**

**Yes**, I would like to participate in this study.

If **Yes**:

**Yes**, I am happy to have a cheek swab taken

**No**, I do not want to have a cheek swab taken

**No**, I do not want to participate in this study.

**If Yes, please complete the following:**

I have read the Information Sheet.

I understand that I do not have to take part in this study if I do not want to.

I understand that I may withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions I wish to ask.

I have the names and telephone numbers of the research team in case I have any queries in the future.

Name: Date:

Signature:

***Thank you!***



## **Information Sheet and Consent Form for typically developing participants aged 16yrs+**

## We Need Your Help!

## The Effect of Early Experiences on Development

Hi, my name is x and I would like to invite you to take part in our research study. Before you decide whether you would like to take part, it is important for you to know why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read this information sheet carefully and discuss it with your parents or others if you wish. If there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information, please feel free to contact me on x

**What is this study about?**

The aim of the study is to look at the effect of early good and bad experiences on teenagers’ development. We want to understand how early experiences can affect the way people react to their environment. We are also interested in looking at these abilities in teenagers who have not had bad experiences when they were children so that we can see how similar or different they are from the teenagers who have had a difficult childhood.

**Why is the study being done?**

Having bad experiences in childhood can have a negative effect on a person’s development. Also, children who have suffered from bad experiences are more likely to develop mental health difficulties later in life than those who have not. It is our hope that this research will eventually help us prevent more children from developing illness and mental health difficulties later in life, and will help us to better treat those who do suffer from these problems already.

**What will happen if I take part?**

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be seen by me at school for a little over one hour to do some computer games and puzzles. You will also be asked to fill in some questionnaires and do some simple pen and paper tasks.Because we are interested in understanding how genes can have an effect on people’s development, we would like to take a cheek swab of your DNA. A cheek swab involves you rubbing cotton wool buds inside your cheek for about 20 seconds. It is fast and painless (it may tickle a little). It is important for you to know that no one else apart from the researchers in this study will have access to your DNA. We will not give this information to anyone else, and only use it for research purposes.

We would also like to get in touch with you again, in about one year’s time. We are interested in seeing how similar or different your responses to the games and questionnaires will be in one year. You do not have to decide now whether you want to take part again and we will get in touch with you at a later date to see if you would like to see us again.

**What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to do some games on a laptop computer while at school. The games have been designed to be fun and they will help us understand how you react to social and emotional information. You will, for example, play a game where you bet with virtual money. You will also be asked to do some pen and paper tasks that are made for teenagers of your age. Some of these will, for example, look at how you understand other people’s emotions or thoughts. Finally, we will ask you to fill in some questionnaires that ask questions about your own thoughts and attitudes about different situations, about conflicts you may have experienced at home and also about aggression you may have seen in your neighbourhood. All of this information is collected in the strictest confidence.

**Are there any risks of discomforts?**

We do not anticipate any risks to the teenagers taking part in this study. We will talk to your class teacher to make sure that you do not miss any lessons that your teacher believes are important for you to attend. This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics committee.

**What are the potential benefits?**

We hope that with your help and that of other teenagers, we will find better ways to treat children who have suffered from early bad experiences. For example, we might help to improve the way they understand and react to information in their environment. Although there may be no immediate benefit for the teenagers taking part in this study, we hope that their participation will be beneficial to other children in the future. Also, we hope that you will find the experience fun and interesting.

**Do I have to take part in this study?**

It is up to you whether or not you take part in this study. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide now, or at a later date, that you do not wish to participate in this research you are free to stop at any time, without giving a reason. We want to make sure that everyone is happy when taking part in our project!

**Will information about me be available to anyone?**

All information collected from you during the course of this research will be kept strictly confidential, unless required by law. For example the school will not have access to our research records. It is important for you to know that we are interested in the average performance of our participants, not in any individual teenager. All of our research reports will contain information about average performance of many teenagers. No individual teenager will be named or singled out.

**Who will have access to the research records?**

Only members of our research team will be able to look at the information we collect. Our study complies with the Data Protection Act of 1998 (DPA). The DPA makes sure the information we collect and keep is well protected.

**How to contact the researchers**

xx

If you prefer to email, my address is x, alternatively you can contact x or send her an email at x

We are happy to talk through any questions with you. Please return this form to your teacher once completed.

***Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. Your help makes our research possible!***

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**Please tick (√) appropriate box:**

**Yes**, I would like to participate in this study.

If **Yes**:

**Yes**, I am happy to have a DNA cheek swab taken

**No**, I do not want to have a DNA cheek swab taken

**No**, I do not want to participate in this study.

**If Yes, please complete the following:**

I have read the Information Sheet.

I understand that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.

I give consent to be contacted directly by the research team in the future at the details given by me on this form.

I have had the opportunity to ask any questions I wish to ask.

I have the names and telephone numbers of the research team in case I have any queries in the

future.

Name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_

**PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU IN ONE YEAR’S TIME TO TAKE PART IN THE SECOND PART OF STUDY**

Address:

Telephone number:

Email:

***Thank you!***