

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to invite your child to participate in an exciting research study.

### **Study Overview**

We know that unimodal bilingualism (the use of two spoken languages) in hearing children drives advances in social development. However, we know little about how bimodal bilingualism (the use of one signed language and one spoken language) affects social development in Deaf/hard of hearing children.

The development of social skills allows children to build friendships and have positive social interactions which are important for their wellbeing. Researchers from The University of Queensland will investigate social development in Deaf/hard of hearing children who use spoken English both with and without any exposure to signing.

This knowledge will contribute to scientific understanding worldwide, and may provide new insights to support the social development of Deaf/hard of hearing children.

### **The Research Team**

Summer Crombie, a member of the Deaf community, is the primary researcher for this study. She is a Psychology Honours student at The University of Queensland under the supervision of Professor Virginia Slaughter. The other researchers involved are Dr Aisling Mulvihill and Zoie Nott. The research will be conducted by Summer Crombie or Zoie Nott, who is a Masters of Clinical Psychology student.

### **What is involved?**

Participation in the study is quick and fun. Your child will complete a measure of vocabulary understanding, a sorting game on the iPad, and a fun play-based social thinking task. Your child will be video- and audio-recorded during the tasks. This recording will be used for research purposes only and will not be used publicly. Participating parents will also complete a short questionnaire. Parents/guardians are asked to remain with their child during the session.

### **Where will the study take place?**

Children participating in the study will be invited to visit the Early Cognitive Development Centre at The University of Queensland.

### **When will the study take place?**

Children and their parents/guardians will be invited to attend at a time convenient to them. This visit will take approximately 30 minutes.

### **Participants**

We will recruit Deaf/hard of hearing children aged 3 years to 12 years who use spoken English.

### **Privacy and Confidentiality**

All information from this study will be de-identified. That is, no names will be recorded on any reports or publications arising from the study. All information will be treated as strictly confidential and will not be given to anyone else.

Your decision to participate in this study is completely voluntary. Either you and/or your child are free to withdraw consent and participation at any stage during the study. Should you withdraw consent, your child's information will not be used.

### **Ethics**

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. The ethics approval number for this project is 2017001436. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with the researcher contactable on [[vps@psy.uq.edu.au](mailto:vps@psy.uq.edu.au) / 0435 066 760] if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on +617 3365 3924 / +617 3443 1656 or email [humanethics@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au)

### **Can I hear about the results of this research?**

We will provide an overview of findings from this research via our annual [ECDC parent newsletter](#). All personal information will be treated as strictly confidential and no names will be recorded on any reports or publications arising from the study

### **Consent to Participate**

If you would like your child/ren to participate in this project, click here to complete the consent form: [TOM in Deaf Children](#)

### **More Information**

If you would like to be contacted regarding this research project, please contact Professor Virginia Slaughter on [[vps@psy.uq.edu.au](mailto:vps@psy.uq.edu.au) / 0435 066 760]. If emailing, please include your contact details (name, email and phone number) and a preferred time of contact.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Professor Virginia Slaughter  
Summer Crombie  
Zoie Nott  
ECDC, School of Psychology – UQ