



Participant Information and Consent Form – Parent / Carer

Project title: Development of a Numeracy Screening Tool to Identify Students At Risk of Low Mathematics Achievement.

Your child is invited to participate in a study that is aiming to develop a quick and easy measure to screen all Foundation and Year 1 students number skills. The overall aim is to understand whether this screening measure can help us identify children who will need additional support with mathematics, and to provide that support at the earliest opportunity. The classroom teacher has agreed to participate, and all children in the class are being invited to take part in the study.

Who is running the study?

Kelly Norris (knorris@cis.org.au) from the Centre for Independent Studies is leading the project, supported by Professor Rebecca Bull (r.bull@mq.edu.au) from the School of Education at Macquarie University. Some of the data collected from this study will also contribute to the PhD of Stanley Cheng (stanley.cheng@hdr.mq.edu.au), a student under the supervision of Rebecca Bull at Macquarie University.

What will your child have to do?

Your child will complete a few simple tasks to measure early number skills such as comparing amounts of objects, matching quantities, and basic number skills that form the basis of arithmetic. Children will complete this in small groups with the class teacher. Children will also complete a measure of mathematics achievement that has already been used as part of normal classroom assessment by the teacher. As such, this is not an additional burden for your child.

How long will the study take?

The number tasks take approximately 20 minutes to complete. They will be administered by the class teacher up to three times during the year, at the beginning, middle and end of the year. Children will complete the mathematics achievement measure two times, at the beginning and end of the year.

Where will the study take place?

The study will take place in your child's school, during school hours. If you agree for your child to participate in the study, you will be asked to share some background characteristics for your child (date of birth, sex, whether they identify as Aboriginal or Torres-Strait Islander, language spoken at home, grade level, class). We use this information to check the screener works equally well for different groups of children (age, language background etc). You will also be asked if you agree to the school sharing with us demographic information you provided at enrolment (e.g., parental occupation category, parental education level).

What are the benefits of participating in the study?

Your child's participation in the study will allow us to find out whether the numeracy activities are accurate at predicting which children have later difficulties learning mathematics. This may

not be of immediate benefit to your child. However, in future years teachers would be able to use these activities to offer support for learning at the earliest opportunity before children start to struggle and lose interest in mathematics.

Who will see my child's information and results?

Any information or personal details gathered during the study are confidential, except as required by law. Your child will not be identified in any publication of the results. Your child will be allocated a unique identification code and all data and results will be linked to that code. Only one member of the research team will have access to the file that links codes and children's actual names.

Potential future use of data

There is a possibility that in the future, data from this project could be useful in future projects to investigate mathematics achievement and/or development. We are seeking participants' permission that the data, as part of a larger dataset (the information collected for this project) can be re-used in future research with similar goals, i.e.:

- To analyse the utility of digitally administered numeracy tasks in measuring and predicting maths achievement
- To investigate the impact of demographic variables on the efficacy of the assessment tool and tasks
- To investigate the development of aspects of mathematical proficiency over time and how earlier abilities predict later performance (e.g. linking data on early numeracy achievement to later NAPLAN performance).

To enable this re-use, your data will be held at Macquarie University in its data repository and by the Centre for Independent Studies on their secure server, and managed under a Data Management Plan. The stored data available for re-use will not have information in it that makes your child identifiable.

This request is in line with current University and government policy that encourages the re-use of data once it has been collected. Collecting information for research can be an inconvenience or burden for participants and has significant costs associated with it. Sharing your data with other researchers gives potential for others to reflect on the data and its findings, to re-use it with new insight, and increase understanding in this research area.

The researchers who are managing the data under this Plan will decide what types of future projects are suitable for this data to be used in. This may mean that the dataset is given to other researchers outside of the current research team. The researchers could also be from anywhere in the world and may, or may not, have affiliations with a university. The data will be held indefinitely or until it is felt that it is no longer needed for research. After this time the data will be securely destroyed.

The re-use of the data will only be allowed after an ethics committee has agreed that the new use of the data meets the requirements of ethics review.

You are welcome to discuss these issues further with the researchers before deciding if you agree to consent.

Will I get the individual results from my child?

You will not receive individual results for your child.

Will I have access to the findings of this research?

After the completion of the project, the researchers will write a summary of the findings. This will be shared with participating schools and teachers, and they will be asked to share this with this.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

For any questions regarding this project, please contact Kelly Norris at knorris@cis.org.au or Professor Rebecca Bull at r.bull@mq.edu.au

What do I do now?

If you are happy for your child to participate, please complete and return the consent form on the following page to your child's classroom teacher.

If you do not want your child to participate, that is also fine. Participation is entirely voluntary.

What happens if I agree to participate but then I regret it?

You can withdraw your permission at any time. To do so, simply contact Kelly Norris or Rebecca Bull by email. Once you have requested to be withdrawn from the study, all your child's data will be destroyed.

What happens if my child agrees to participate but then they regret it?

Your child can also withdraw their participation at any time. They can let the teacher know or you can let us know on their behalf by contacting us by email. Once your child has requested to stop their participation all of your child's data will be destroyed.

Are there any risks for me or my child to participate?

The activities your child completes in this project are very similar to typical classroom activities and we believe there are very minimal risks to children. If your child feels that they are struggling to complete some of the tasks, they may feel distressed. While your child is completing any of the mathematical tasks, they will be reminded that they can pause or stop their participation at any time. If your child expresses any distress or the teacher considers that they might be distressed they will be given the option to take a break or stop their participation all together. If the teacher feels it to necessary, they may seek guidance from the school counsellor. Please take some time to decide if you think your child will be comfortable completing this study. We are happy to discuss this with you further.

Yours faithfully

Kelly Norris

Senior Research Associate

Centre for Independent Studies



Participant Information and Consent Form

Parent/Carer Participant (please return to class teacher)

Project title: Development of a Numeracy Screening Tool to Identify Students At Risk of Low Mathematics Achievement.

I have read and understand the information provided above. Any questions I had have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree for my child to participate in this study, knowing my child can withdraw participation at any time without any consequences.

Please tick this box to confirm your consent for your child to participate

☐

Parent/Carer's name _____

Date _____

Child's Name _____

Child's School _____

Background characteristics: Age (date of birth)

We ask for you to share these background characteristics so that we can check the tool works equally well for students with different characteristics.

Please supply your child's date of birth. This will be converted into age in years and months when the data is analysed so that your child can not be identified.

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____/_____/_____

Prefer not to say

☐

Other background characteristics

Is your child:

Male

☐

Female

☐

Prefer not say

☐

Does your child identify as Aboriginal or Torres-Strait Islander:

Yes

☐

No

☐

Prefer not to say

☐

Does your child speak a language other than English at home?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Prefer not to say

☐

I consent to my child's school providing further demographic information to improve the findings of the research (parental education level category, parental occupation category)

Yes

☐

No

☐

Researcher's name: Kelly Norris (knorris@cis.org.au)

Researcher's name: Rebecca Bull (r.bull@mq.edu.au)

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Macquarie University Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any complaints or reservations about any ethical aspect of your participation in this research, you may contact the Committee through the Director, Research Ethics & Integrity (telephone (02) 9850 7854; email ethics@mq.edu.au). Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome