



Summary for parents: Study “Frühenglisch im Gehirn”

What is this?

Researchers from the University of Zurich are running the study «Frühenglisch im Gehirn» to investigate:

- 1) How childrens' brains learn English in 2nd grade.**
- 2) How bilingual children learn English.**
- 3) How dyslexic children learn English.**
- 4) Whether it can be predicted, how well children learn English.**

Who can participate?

Children can participate, if they are now in 1st grade and will start the 2nd grade this fall (Canton of Zurich). They should not have learned English before.

We are looking for:

- Children with dyslexia**
- Children with a Roman/Latin first language** (French, Italian, Catalan, Portuguese, Romansh, Romanian, Spanish)
- Children with a Slavic first language** (Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Czeck, Ukrainian)
- Children with Albanian as first language**

What do I need to do?

Participation in the study is voluntary. If you would like to participate, please contact us, so that we can send you the application forms (by email: fruehenglisch@psychologie.uzh.ch or by phone: study cell phone, Lea Jost: 077 490 2550; or Principal Investigator, Urs Maurer: 044 635 7181)

What is my child doing in the study?

If you participate in the study, then we will investigate the brain waves (EEG) of your child (EEG) BEFORE he/she starts learning English in 2nd grade, and again AFTER 1 year of English in school.

Each time there are two sessions (lasting 3h and 2h), during which the child performs language-related tasks. The sessions are at the Department of Psychology (one session may take place at your home, if requested).

In addition you will be asked to fill out a few questionnaires.

What's an EEG?

The EEG (Electroencephalogram) measures brain waves on the scalp. To do that, we will put a child-friendly net with soft sponges on your child's head. This does not hurt and is not dangerous (non-invasive).

What is my child going to get?

Your child will get a book voucher (CHF 40) and can choose a little present from a treasure box.

Upon request you will receive a research report that contains the results from the standardized reading and writing tests.

Who is supporting the study?

The study is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and supported by the «Volksschulamt des Kanton Zürich» and by the «Leiter der Schulpsychologischen Dienste der Stadt Zürich».

Is there more information?

The study is described in detail in the «Informationsblatt» (in German). You are also welcome to call us, if you have further questions (study cell phone, Lea Jost: 077 490 2550; Principal Investigator, Urs Maurer: 044 635 7181).