Universität Zürich[UZH]

Department of Psychology
Developmental Psychology:
Infancy and Childhood

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Consent Form for Participation in the study:

Socio-Cognitive Development During School Transitions (Study Directors: Joanna Rutkowska & Norine Moser)

This is a translation of the original document, provided for your convenience only. The German version is legally binding and will prevail in case of any discrepancies.

Dear parents,

Your child's class (homeroom) teacher has agreed to participate in a study conducted by the University of Zurich. Please read the following information about the research project carefully.

Please ask your child's teacher or us if there is anything you don't understand or would like to know more about.

Study Overview
In our study, we examine how a child's social and cognitive skills develop and how the child's environment might influence this development. Social and cognitive skills can influence how a person perceives, processes, and interprets information from their surroundings. They are important for cooperation and joint decision-making, but also for deceptive behaviour, lying, or strategic thinking. We examine children's strategic, deceptive, and honest behaviours and decisions in playful situations, particularly in response to different behaviours exhibited by partners in games. In addition, we investigate how children's social and cognitive skills change as they gain more experience in school. The study is part of a multinational project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, conducted in collaboration with Babeș-Bolyai University in Romania and Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland. Additional information about the study is also available online at: https://choices-project.org/de/.

More details about the study
The study consists of two sessions, each lasting one school lesson, and takes place entirely during school hours and on school grounds. The exact date will be scheduled directly with your child's class (homeroom) teacher. Children who participate in the 2026/27 school year will be asked to participate again in 2027/28 and 2028/29 so that their development can be tracked over a two-year period. This consent form applies to participation in the 2026/27 school year. Consent will be asked for separately for the 2027/28 and 2028/29 school years.
During the sessions at school, your child will play several games with a research assistant or on a tablet. In these games, we will observe your child's behaviour and decisions, particularly in response to the behaviour of partners in these games. Children in 4th grade and above will also complete a short questionnaire about their well-being at school. Additionally, you can support us by completing an online questionnaire.

Duration of the study
Each of the two sessions lasts one school lesson (45 minutes) and takes place entirely during school hours. Children who participate in the 2026/27 school year will be asked to participate again in 2027/28 and 2028/29. The online questionnaire for parents takes between 25 and 35 minutes to complete.

Potential Benefits and Advantages of Participating in the Study
Participation in this study is an important contribution to current foundational research in developmental psychology. The findings will help guide the targeted development of educational and teaching practices. It also offers an interesting insight into how scientific studies in developmental psychology are conducted. As a thank-you for participating, your child will receive a book voucher for each year they take part. During the games, they will also receive small rewards, such as school supplies.

Possible Disadvantages of Participating in the Study
Participating in the study will not cause your child any harm, and no video data will be collected. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or reach out to us directly (weltentdecker-studien@psychologie.uzh.ch). You and your child may decline to participate in the study or withdraw at any time without providing a reason. Data that has already been collected can be deleted upon request until the end of the school year.

Data Storage and Publication
For this project, personal data will be collected from you and your child. This includes, among other things, your respective answers, your child's decisions in various tasks, your child's reaction times, and—in one task—an audio recording of your child's response. Only a very small number of researchers will have access to the unencrypted data, and they will do so solely to carry out tasks related to the project. All individuals who have access to your data as part of the project are bound by confidentiality obligations. When data is collected for research purposes, it is encrypted. Encryption means that all identifying information that could be used to identify you (e.g., name, date of birth) is deleted and replaced with a key. The key list remains at the university at all times. Therefore, individuals who do not know the key cannot draw any conclusions about you or your child. In addition, raw data may be made publicly available in a fully anonymized form to enable further scientific use. Data protection regulations are adhered to, and you and your child, as participants, have the right to access your data until the end of the project in 2029.

Incidental findings
This is a purely scientific study in which we observe your child's behaviour. The data from our behavioural studies cannot be used for clinical purposes. In the very unlikely event that we do identify something unusual in your child (an incidental finding), we will inform you. If you do not wish to be informed, please let us know in advance.

Location of the study
The study will be conducted on your child's school grounds.

Funding of the Study
The study is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the University of Zurich and the Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development.

Consent Form for Participation in the Study: Socio-Cognitive Development During School Transitions

Study number (with the relevant ethics committee)	26.05.12
Title of the study	Socio-Cognitive Development During School Transitions
Responsible Institution	Universität Zürich Psychologisches Institut Entwicklungspsychologie: Säuglings- und Kindesalter Binzmühlestrasse 14, Box 21, 8050 Zürich, Schweiz
Location of the study	On your child's school grounds.
Study coordination	Norine Moser E-Mail: norine.moser@psychologie.uzh.ch Tel.: 044 635 74 81 Joanna Rutkowska E-Mail: joanna.rutkowska@jacobscenter.uzh.ch Tel.: 044 635 74 81
Conducting the Study	Norine Moser, Sabrina Ruppen, Mara Peschke, Chiara Beck, Suzan Longatti

The study has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Arts and is being conducted in accordance with applicable Swiss laws. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Prof. Dr. Christopher Hopwood (chair.ethics.committee@phil.uzh.ch).

Consent Form

O Yes, my child and I are participating in this study voluntarily. By signing this form, I confirm that I have read and understood the information about the study.

O No, I do not consent to participating.

[If yes:]

- My child _____ (First name and surname)
  born on _____ (Child's date of birth), and
  I _____(First name and surname)
  as _____ (Indication of the relationship to the child)
  are taking part in this study voluntarily. I may withdraw my consent to participate at any time without providing a reason.

- I was informed in writing about the purpose and procedure of the study, as well as its potential benefits and risks.
- My **questions regarding participation in this study** have been answered to my satisfaction. I can download the written study information at: *https://www.psychologie.uzh.ch/de/bereiche/dev/devpsy/Weltentdecker/aktuelle-studien/choices.html*. I accept the contents of the written study information provided for the study mentioned above.
- I had sufficient time to make my decision.
- I understand that this is a **purely scientific study** and that the data collected cannot be used for clinical purposes. I have been informed that, in the very unlikely event that an abnormality is detected in my child (incidental finding), I will be notified unless I have opted out.
- I am aware that **my child's data and my own data** will be **stored for analysis and archiving** without mentioning any names. In addition, raw data may be made publicly available in a fully anonymized form to enable further scientific use. All data that could identify me or my child will be encrypted. All staff members of the department are bound by a confidentiality agreement.

By signing this document, I confirm that I have read and understood the information about the study.

Please enter your name as your signature and click "Next" to proceed to the next page.

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