

Second Language Acquisition Study Consent Form

Project Description

Our research at 3e International is to help us better understand how very young children acquire a second or third language. We know that there is a developmental sequence in second language learning, but we want to understand more about the differences in how children move through that sequence. We also want to understand more about how children respond to the strategies teachers use to support language learning. The study is a continuation of the one that began last school year. It will be conducted in both the Western and Chinese classrooms at the preschool and kindergarten levels.

Participation in the Study

Agreeing to have your child participate will involve:

Observations of all children in the classroom. No direct contact will be made with individual children.

Assessment by the teachers of your child's vocabulary development in both languages in the fall and spring of the year.

Observation and assessment by the teachers of your child's interactions with peers and classroom behaviors during the school year.

Voluntary Nature

Participation in this research study is purely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without penalty, that is, without this affecting any relationships with your child's teacher. Additionally, withdrawal from this study will not affect your ability to participate in other projects that are offered by 3e.

Benefits and Risks

Potential benefits from participation in this research study include gaining additional information about progress your child may be making in second-language acquisition and interaction with others in the early childhood classroom. We do not see any risks for you or for your child in participating in this study.

Confidentiality

All information provided will be kept confidential and be available only to your child's teacher, since the teacher will be involved in the assessment procedures. Information obtained through questionnaires will be protected by eliminating identifying information when possible and then storing it in a locked file cabinet while the researcher is in Beijing and then in a locked file cabinet in the researcher's office at Michigan State University. The only person who will have access to the provided information will be the research investigator, Dr. Anne K. Soderman, and the graduate student who will be putting data into the computer for analysis. After questionnaires and child assessments have been completed, Dr. Soderman will collect them and recode them with numbers rather than participants' names to further assure confidentiality. No identifying information will be released via reported findings from the project. Your privacy, and your child's privacy, will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law.

Video Taping and Photos

Participating in the research study includes the possibility of having your child appear in video taping that may be done to provide examples to other educators about how children acquire second languages. Pictures of your child responding to other children, to adults, and participating in language activities designed to promote second language acquisition will be taken. Your signature below indicates your voluntary agreement to have your child video taped or photographed.

Contacts and Questions

If you have any questions about this study, please contact the primary investigator, Dr. Anne K. Soderman at 3e at Soderman@msu.edu.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your rights as a study participant, or are dissatisfied at any time with any aspect of this study, you may contact, anonymously if you wish, Peter Vasilenko, PhD, Director of the Human Subject Protection Programs at Michigan State University, by telephone (517-355-2180), by FAX (517-432-4503), by e-mail (irb@msu.edu) or by regular mail (202 Olds Hall, E. Lansing, MI 48824, U.S.A.).

Statement of Consent

Parents of (child's name): _____

By signing below, we agree to participate in the research study being conducted within 3e International to learn about acquisition of second languages in young children. Our signature below indicates our voluntary agreement for our child to participate in this study.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Project expires: August 15, 2009