

Appendix 1: Ethical information

Participant Information Sheet (parents and children) Doctoral Research: Educational Studies

1. Research Project Title:

Making things in their own way - *a study of digital literacy practices in three multilingual households*

You and your child are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

2. What is the purpose of the project?

My study aims to understand the ways in which children from a small group of British South Asian families are interacting with digital technologies in their everyday lives. These include: computing, playing digital games, bilingual and multilingual communicative practices with friends and families and cultural practices. This project is a PhD research project at the University of Sheffield. I have to find out about the meaning of your children's activities linked with their use of digital technology in the home. Firstly, I will observe children's activities just to get ideas of their practices with regard to their use of digital technology. Secondly, the main part of my research is to video your children's activities under your supervision or in my presence. I would like to know whether you and your child are happy with me videoing their activities. I will observe this video clip in order to write it down. I need to include some of the images from the video clip. I will discuss with you and your child regarding which of these images you would prefer me to include in my thesis.

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3. Why have I been chosen?

I am interested in observing children's digital literacy practices in the home settings because my research required looking at what sort of learning is occurring through their use digital technologies. I am also interested to know what these practices mean to children and how these meanings fit into the practices of school literacy settings. I believe that this research process will help me to understand children's digital literacy practices in the context of South Asian culture and a possible relationship between home and school regarding children knowledge transfer. Looking at children's activities through their use of digital technologies might suggest new policies and practices in the school education system.

5. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep (and be asked to sign a consent form). If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time, without penalty or loss of benefits, and without giving a reason.

6. What will happen to me if I take part?

I will ask you a few questions about children's digital activities within families and will type up the interview, checking that you are happy with the interview once it is typed. While there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that this work will enhance my understanding of researching children's literacy and language development and will therefore benefit families with children in school settings.

7. Research will involve children

My research involves families with children. This research places emphasis on diverse South Asian families' influence upon children's use of various digital literacies in home practices, such as languages, family literacy, digital text and school homework etc. It is very important to find out about the wide range of learning resources that children often used in homes and whether your child is connecting knowledge acquired in the home to that acquired in school. I will ask your child a few questions about activities captured in the video, just to make sure that I get their opinion right.

8. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All information that is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Any information about you that is disseminated will have your name and address removed so that you cannot be recognised from it. The results of the study will be written up in my thesis. For further information, my contact details and those of my supervisor are provided below.

9. Contact for further information:

My contact details: 0114 2620481 or via email: p.akhter@sheffield.ac.uk

Supervisor: Kate Pahl: k.pahl@Sheffield.ac.uk or 0114 2228112

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART!

Consent form for the children

Taking part in a research project:

I am interested to know your digital and cultural practices at home.

I would like to find out what sort of activities you do in your home by the use of digital technology.

I will show you all that I write and will read out the sections that apply to you.

You will also not be named in the final report, I will use a different name for you.

About you

Your name _____

Please let me know if you are happy with my:

Please circle

Taking photographs or video

Happy

Not happy

Taking photographs of your favourite objects

Happy

Not happy

Talking to you

Happy

Not happy

Writing about your work

Happy

Not happy

Telling other people about your work

Happy

Not happy

Any thoughts on the project?

Many thanks!

Parven Akhter (researcher)



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
PARTICIPANT (Parents) CONSENT FORM

Title of Project:

Making things in their own way - a study of digital literacy practices in three multilingual households

Principal Investigator: Parven Akhter

Participant Identification Number for this project:

Please initial box

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information sheet dated:
[] for the above project and have had the opportunity to
ask questions.

2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am
free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason.

3. I understand that my name will be changed in the final report

4. I agree to take part in the above research project.

Name (changed) of Child Date Signature

Name (changed) of Parent Date Signature

Name of Person taking consent
(if different from researcher) Date Signature

Researcher Date Signature

Copies: One copy for the participant and one copy for the Principal Investigator / Supervisor