



Dear parent/guardian,

Your child's school is participating in a study conducted by the University of Amsterdam on language learning. In the Netherlands, most children learn to read and write at a young age, but this is not the case everywhere. Each year, children arrive in the Netherlands who have not had the opportunity to attend school in their home country. When these children first attend school here, they must learn not only the Dutch language but also reading and writing. To better support these children, we want to understand how children learn language while simultaneously learning to read and write. This is why we are conducting research with children of varying ages and reading skills.

We need your help for this research. In the rest of this letter, we briefly explain how we conduct this research.

### **What does participation mean for your child?**

We are looking for children around five and a half years old who are willing to do a few language and reading tasks at school. These tasks take about half an hour in total, including breaks. In the first task, we will assess what your child already knows about reading. In the second task, your child will play a game that involves counting words. The third task focusses on different language sounds. In the last task, your child will learn words and sentences in a new language in a playful way. Experience shows that children enjoy these activities. At the end, they receive a small gift.

### **Your Privacy**

Only we, the members of the research team, have access to your information. This data will never be shared with others. You and your child remain completely anonymous. The results of the language tasks will not affect your child's progress at school.

### **Consent**

We hope that you will want to participate in this research. If you give consent, you and your child can stop participating at any time without giving a reason. In this case, we will delete the data about you and your child. If you have any questions about consent, you can always email Sarah der Nederlanden at [s.j.dernederlanden@uva.nl](mailto:s.j.dernederlanden@uva.nl).

Thank you very much for your help!

Kind regards,

Sarah der Nederlanden



Also on behalf of the other members of the research team:

Prof. dr. Sible Andringa

Project leader

Dr. Josje Verhagen

Project supervisor

Dr. Yeşim Sevinç

Project supervisor

Dr. Sybren Spit

Post-doctoral researcher

By registering my child, I declare the following:

- I declare that I have been clearly informed about the research and how it will be conducted and that my questions have been answered satisfactorily.
- I declare that I voluntarily consent to my child's (or my dependent child's) participation.
- I understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time without giving a reason. All collected information about me and my child will then be destroyed.
- I understand that my child (or my dependent child) will always remain completely anonymous and unidentifiable in reports and publications about this research. Personal data will never be given to third parties.
- I declare that I am authorized to sign for my child's (or my dependent child's) participation.

If I would like further information about the research, now or in the future, I can contact Sarah der Nederlanden, a member of this research, at [s.j.dernederlanden@uva.nl](mailto:s.j.dernederlanden@uva.nl).

For any complaints about this research, I can contact the Secretary of the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Amsterdam, 020-5253054 / [ethiek-fgw@uva.nl](mailto:ethiek-fgw@uva.nl).