

Parent's or Guardian's Informed Permission Form

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

A first-hand experience with laboratory procedures is an educational part of the first course in psychology. At N.Y.U. they take advantage of the need of our faculty researchers for student participation in their studies. Each student is given the opportunity to participate in carefully supervised studies, thus gaining otherwise unobtainable experience with original research in psychology.

They have both department and university-wide committees that approve studies for our students. These committees are very exacting in enforcing high ethical standards. Each of the research projects contains safeguards designed to protect the rights and welfare of the students who participate. All records are confidential, so the privacy of the student's data is protected.

The Study: Your child, _____, is invited to take part in a study named Patch. This study is being conducted by Professor Karen E. Adolph (Principal Investigator) and her research team. She can be reached at Department of Psychology, Meyer Building Rm. 415, Karen.Adolph@nyu.edu, (212) 998-3552. The faculty sponsor of this work is also Professor Karen E. Adolph.

Its Purpose: The study is designed to learn more about how children and young adults acquire mobility and how locomotor abilities change from infancy through old age. With your child's help, the experimenters hope to learn more about the factors that affect human development.

Its Procedures: If you give permission for your child to be in this study, he or she will be asked to do the following: The experimenters will ask your child about his/her height, eyesight, and previous locomotor experience (whether s/he has ever had a serious fall, whether or not s/he participates in sports, whether s/he has ever walked over various surfaces, etc.). The experimenters will escort your child into the lab and ask her/him to stand or walk on a raised walkway in approximately 10-50 trials.

In the first condition, the middle of the walkway will contain a soft foam pit. The inside of the foam pit and the exposed surface of the walkway will be lined with 1.5 inch high-density protective padding. On the first trial, the experimenters will ask your child to walk down the entire length of the walkway so that s/he can encounter the foam pit. Two highly trained experimenters will walk alongside holding onto each elbow to prevent any possible loss of balance. On subsequent trials, the experimenters will ask your child to identify the start of the "squishy region" with a laser pointer. For the second condition, s/he will make visual judgments using a 7-point rating scale for various sample surfaces at the end of the solid walkway. The experimenters will ask your child to stand at varying distances from these surfaces as s/he makes judgments and will spot her/him if they start to fall. Some of the conditions may take place outdoors, depending on your child's condition assignment. The entire session will be videotaped for later data coding and analysis.

At the end of the trials, the experimenter will escort your child back to the waiting room, where s/he will receive a complete oral debriefing explaining the purpose of the study and its relationship to the material covered in the Introductory Psychology course. S/he will also be given written debriefing containing the same information. Participation will take about 1 hour and your child will receive 1 credit towards course requirement.

Its Benefits: Although your child will receive no direct benefits for participation in this study, it may make your child more aware of how knowledge is discovered in psychology and help the investigator better understand about how children acquire mobility and how locomotor abilities change from infancy through old age.

Its Risks: There may be some minimal risks, such as the possibility that your child may experience a loss of balance or fall during the session. However, no risks go beyond those of everyday life. Whenever your child is on the walkway, an experimenter will remain close by to assist him/her.

Privacy: Confidentiality of your child's research records will be strictly maintained by giving a code number rather than a name to identify it. Only staff members of the project will have access to the videotapes. They will keep the videotapes for at least five years, as is customary. Only researchers associated with this project will have access to videotapes or data. Short segments of selected videotapes may be shown to other researchers or students as examples of adult gait, but

participants are not identified in any way. Your child may decline to have his/her videotape viewed by others. Your child may review videotapes of his/her session and request that all or any portion of the tapes be destroyed or broken.

Consent: Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Non-participation or withdrawal will not affect your child's grade or academic standing in any way. Further, once participating, he or she may withdraw at any time and still receive his/her credit offered in exchange for that participation.

Debriefing: On completing the study your child will receive a thorough written explanation of it that you may ask to see.

The information above has satisfied me such that I agree that my child may participate in your study. If I have any additional questions or want to report a problem, I may reach the researcher and Faculty Sponsor, Karen Adolph, at her contact provided above. For questions about my child's rights as a research participant, I may contact the University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects (UCAIHS), Office of Sponsored Programs, NYU, (212) 998-2121.

I have received a copy of this permission document to keep.

Permission Granted for my Child's Participation

Parent's or Guardian's Signature

Date

PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEOTAPE RELEASE

I agree to allow photographs and portions from my child's laboratory session to be shown to other parents, students, or researchers as examples of adults' behavior. No information regarding my child's identity will be released. Also, neither photographs nor portions of the videotape will be shown to the general public in any form (e.g., photograph in textbook, portion of videotape on news special) without first requesting my permission.

Permission Granted for my Child's Photograph and Videotape Release

Parent's or Guardian's Signature

Date