

# The Child Development Group

## The Child Development Group Newsletter

An Insight into the ongoing research // Autumn 2023

October 2023

We hope you and your families are safe and well this Autumn!

Thank you so much for all your help with our research this year!

If you are interested in getting involved with more studies, please see below for what we have going on:

### A summary of recent findings!

We have recently finished two studies which looked at how autistic and dyslexic children see moving things and make decisions about it. Previous research has shown that autistic and dyslexic children perceive moving objects differently from those without any developmental conditions, and in this study we wanted to work out why. Children aged 6 to 14 years played two computer games where they had to work out the overall direction of a set of fireflies, while their brain waves were recorded using EEG sensors on a net placed on their head. We found that the dyslexic children were slower to collect evidence and decide on the direction of dots compared to children without developmental conditions, and this was related to brain activity measured from the centre of their heads. However, the autistic children made their decisions quite similarly to children without developmental conditions. This suggests that, on the whole, children with dyslexia have greater difficulties perceiving motion information and making decisions about it than autistic children. However, this isn't the case for all children with dyslexia, and we still need to understand more about why.

### The See & Eat vegetable study!

We are looking for parents/carers and their **children aged 2-4 years** to explore how we can help children **eat more vegetables!** (Ethical approval reference: 2022-083-CHP)

We know our vegetable ebooks can help, but we are keen to find out a bit more about how parents use them and what works best.

Interested? Visit <https://reading.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/see-eat-reading> or Email us at [seeandeat@reading.ac.uk](mailto:seeandeat@reading.ac.uk)

### **How do autistic and non-autistic children process visual information? Help us find out!**

Researchers at the University of Reading are finding out how autistic children process visual information and make decisions about it, and how this compares to children without autism. We are looking for children aged 6-14 years old who either have an autism diagnosis or have no developmental conditions to take part in the study. Children will play some fun computer games where they decide the direction of fireflies and beetles. We will also do some simple language and reasoning tasks and parents will be asked to complete some brief questionnaires. Families will be given a £10 voucher to thank them for taking part. If you are interested in your child participating, or you want to find out more, please contact Hodo Yusuf at [h.yusuf@reading.ac.uk](mailto:h.yusuf@reading.ac.uk) or Dr Cathy Manning ([c.a.manning@reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.manning@reading.ac.uk)). This study has received ethical approval by University of Reading Research Ethics Committee, project UREC-2137, end date 28-08-2024.

Please let us know if you no longer want to be part of the child development group database (email: [children@reading.ac.uk](mailto:children@reading.ac.uk))

Stay safe! -

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