

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Children's schoolwork occupational performance:  
Investigating factors that contribute to children's productivity in primary school classroom environments**

Primary School Principal

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My name is Carissa Lyons and I am seeking permission to include your school in my study, which I am completing for my Doctorate degree. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not you give your permission. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this study, you are encouraged to contact the Chief Investigator or student researcher via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

### **What is the purpose of this research?**

The purpose of this study is to identify the factors which predict the schoolwork performance of typically developing children, completing year three of mainstream primary school. Schoolwork performance includes the level of ease, efficiency, safety and independence the child demonstrates during schoolwork tasks (e.g., writing reports/essays, cutting and pasting, colouring and completing mathematics problems), as well as their literacy and numeracy skills. The factors which will be investigated as part of this study include: motor skills, cognitive skills, sensory processing, social interaction and communication skills, emotional regulation and behaviour, self-perception, classroom environment and child, family and teacher demographics.

### **Why is this research important?**

For primary school children, completing high quality schoolwork is a priority for positive educational outcomes. Within Australian schools, national minimum standards for education provide a target that students are expected to achieve in their academic work. Students who do not achieve this standard require additional support within the classroom to enhance their schoolwork performance, so they can meet the minimum standards for education. Knowledge about the factors which contribute to primary school children's schoolwork performance will enable specific strategies to be implemented with students who require additional support within the classroom.

### **What does the research involve?**

This research involves gathering information from year three primary school children, their parents/primary caregivers and their main classroom teacher.

#### *Children*

- Completion of one self-report questionnaire measuring how the child feels about himself/herself, which will take approximately 15-20 minutes for the child to complete at home.
- One observational assessment whilst the child completes two schoolwork tasks in their classroom, which would be completed as typical classroom activities regardless of the child's participation in this research.
- Participation in the National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), which is completed as a school assessment.

### *Parents/Primary Caregivers*

- Completion of a questionnaire package which will gather information about yourself, your child and your family. The questionnaire package will take approximately 35 minutes for you to complete at home during a time of convenience.

### *Teachers*

- Completion of a questionnaire package to gather information about yourself and the child participant. The questionnaire package will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.
- Participation in a brief 10 minute interview with the student researcher to select the two schoolwork tasks the child will be observed completing, in the teachers presence.

### **Who can choose to participate in this study?**

This study is seeking the participation of: **(i)** children who are completing year three of mainstream primary school on a full-time basis and who have no known disability or significant health condition, **(ii)** their parent/primary caregiver, and **(iii)** their year three classroom teacher. All participants require a working knowledge of written and spoken English. Children who did not (or will not) participate in NAPLAN when the test is administered at your school will be unable to participate in this study.

### **Providing permission for the involvement of your school in this study**

Providing permission for your school to participate in this study involves signing the attached consent form, and returning it to the researchers in the postage paid addressed envelope provided. The researchers are not affiliated with the primary schools involved in this study. Providing permission on behalf of your school is voluntary and there will be no negative consequences if you decide not to be involved in this study. Participants have the right to withdraw from the study at any time, without negative consequence.

### **Possible benefits and risks to participants**

There are no direct benefits to participants from taking part in this study. However, participants will make a valuable contribution to the successful completion of this project. It is hoped that this study will provide knowledge to enable occupational therapists and educators to provide more targeted intervention strategies to enhance students' schoolwork performance in the classroom.

There are no known risks involved for participants in this study. The questions included in the questionnaires are not considered to be invasive or intrusive. Should participants find a question offensive or upsetting, they may leave the question blank. Children will be observed in their classroom, completing two typical schoolwork activities, in the presence of their classroom teacher. It is not anticipated that the child will experience any distress or discomfort from completing these activities. The results of this study will be analysed and presented on a group basis, and therefore participants will not experience embarrassment or distress when the findings of the study are presented.

### **Confidentiality**

The study is confidential and anonymous. Each participant will be assigned an identification number to enable the researchers to match information packages received from children, parents/primary caregivers and teachers. The information collected during this study will be analysed on a group basis and only aggregated data will be published or presented. Therefore, individual participants will not be identifiable.

### **Storage of data**

Storage of the data collected will adhere to Monash University regulations. Information collected as part of this research will be kept on university premises in a locked filing cabinet and on a password protected computer for 5 years. Only the researchers will have access to information associated with this research. Any publications associated with this research will not identify individual participants or schools.

### **Use of the research data**

The findings of this study will be presented in a Doctoral thesis, journal articles and conference presentations. All information will be presented on a group basis, and as such, individual participants will not be identifiable. If you would like to be informed of the research findings, please contact Ms Carissa Lyons on 0419132192 or [carissa.lyons@monash.edu](mailto:carissa.lyons@monash.edu).

**Complaints**

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, please contact:

Human Ethics Officer

Standing Committee on Ethics Research Involving Humans (SCERN)

Building 3e, Room 111

Research Office

Monash University VIC 3800

Phone: +61 3 9905 2052

Fax: +61 3 9905 1420

Email: [scerh@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:scerh@adm.monash.edu.au)

Thank you,



**Associate Professor Ted Brown**



**Ms Carissa Lyons**

**PERMISSION LETTER**

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**Co-Investigator**  
Faculty of Health Science  
Australian Catholic University  
email: helen.bourke-taylor@acu.edu.au

Dear Ms Lyons,

Thank you for your request to recruit participants from \_\_\_\_\_ for the above-named research.  
(Please insert your schools name)

I have read and understood the Explanatory Statement regarding the research project “Children’s schoolwork occupational performance: investigating factors that contribute to children’s productivity in primary school classrooms” and hereby give permission for my school to be involved in this research.

<b>I give permission for the following:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
The researchers inviting year three teachers, parents/primary caregivers and children to participate in this research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The student researcher entering the year three classroom to observe child participants completing two schoolwork tasks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The student researcher accessing and utilising the NAPLAN data of children involved in this research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Yours sincerely,**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the details of the best person for the student researcher to contact to organise participant recruitment and data collection:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position at School \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the addressed envelope provided to return this permission letter to the student researcher.  
Thank you.