

Ethical Review

Practical Research Ethics

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Types of review

Not all research requires a full ethical review.

- e.g., No review needed for reanalysis of publicly available, unidentified data.

Most human subjects research does require review.

- Review by one panel member if not collecting sensitive data.
- Review by two panel members if collecting data from children, or collecting sensitive personal data.
- Review by Head of Department if collecting dangerous data, or (as of Autumn 2021) in-person data.

How is research reviewed?



The screenshot shows the 'PPLS Research Ethics — Submissions' page. At the top, there are links for 'hrabagli profile', 'logout', and 'Help'. Below that are 'New Application' and 'Existing Applications' buttons. The main heading is 'Submit PPLS research project for ethical approval here.' A note states: 'To start, choose 'New Application' or 'Existing Applications' above. Select logout when you are finished or you wish to start over again.' A detailed paragraph explains the PPLS Research Ethics Committee (PPLSREC) process, mentioning a 2-week turnaround for uncomplicated applications and longer times for those involving children, vulnerable adults, or deception. It also notes that users should check the 'uploads' area for responses. A link to 'Records Management' is provided. A 'Problems and questions? Contact:' section lists: 'General enquiries - Ethics Administrator', 'Ethics related questions should be sent to your subject area ethics contact' (with sub-links for LEL, Philosophy, and Psychology), and 'Technical questions concerning the web interface, Cedric Macmartin - c.macmartin@ed.ac.uk'.

- Review panel of local psychologists with diverse expertise.
- Oversight by University ethics panel

What do I need to do for an ethics review.

1. Familiarise yourself with the PPLS Research Ethics Materials

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/psychology/current/postgraduate/research-ethics>

2. With your supervisor, begin an ethics application on the PPLS portal.

<https://resource.ppls.ed.ac.uk/ethics/>

3. Craft your information sheet, consent forms, and any advertisements you want to publicise.

PPLS Research Ethics Material

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PPLS Ethics Portal

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PPLS Information Sheet



Information sheet for parents

Project title: *Studying children's language development on the internet*

Invitation to participate. Your child is invited to participate in a research study on how children use language. This document explains our study, what your rights are, and what will be done with the data we collect. You may want to keep this page for your records, as it contains our contact information.

What is the study about? This project investigates how children learn to fluently speak words. As adults, we rarely need to think about what words we want to say, but for children it is much harder. Here, we are studying what makes it hard for children to remember a word, by looking at how they name pictures.

What will happen? If you agree for your child to participate, we will schedule an online meeting with you via Microsoft Teams. In the meeting, we will share our screen with you and show your child the pages of a picture book that we have created. We will ask your child to tell us the names of the pictures that they can see. The pictures will be of familiar objects and animals, e.g. a clock and a horse. We will video-record your child's responses so that we can examine the names that they said, how long it took them to say those names, and where they looked while they were

PPLS Consent Form

By checking the consent box below, I agree that:

- (1) I have read and understood the Participant Information Page
- (2) Questions about my child's participation in this study have been answered satisfactorily.
- (3) I am aware of the potential risks (if any), and
- (4) I am taking part in this research study voluntarily (without coercion) and I understand that my child and I are free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason, without our rights being affected.
- (5) I understand that anonymised data collected during the study will be stored anonymously and may be placed on academic repositories. Video data will not be shared with anyone outside the immediate research team.
- (6) I understand that the data collected for this study may be presented anonymously at conferences and written up for publication in an academic journal. This will not involve the presentation of any videos or the reporting of individual evaluations; only the aggregate results of whole participant groups.
- (7) I agree to my child's responses being video- and audio-recorded during the study session.
- (8) I am happy for my child's anonymised data to be used in future research.
- (9) I understand that this research project does not involve or report comparisons or evaluations of individuals.

PPLS Recruitment Ads



We are looking for **two-year-old wee scientists** to help us understand how children use language.

*** A fun activity to do at home! ***

Do you have **30 minutes** for our **online research**? Please visit our website for more information and to sign up:

You can help us understand how children learn to fluently speak words.

We are looking for **English speaking children** age 2.

[Link of website](#)

For any further questions, please contact ~~Christina~~ ~~at~~ ~~christina@ppls.ed.ac.uk~~