



Information Brochure

BRAVE Babies

Dear parents and children,

The researchers of Leiden University are conducting a study to understand the role of parents in socio-emotional development. This study takes place in the Child and Family Lab in the Faculty of Social Sciences with 10-to-14-month-olds from two-parent families.

What is this research about?

Our research aims to understand how children make sense of the two parents' anxious or confident responses to a stranger, and how they change their reactions to the strangers accordingly. We make use of the latest infant-friendly technology to measure child reactions to strangers using a variety of methods in this study, including observations, eye-tracking and physiology (heart-rate). With this study, we hope to gain more insight the role that mothers and fathers play on child reactions to strangers.

How does the research look like?

The study consists of

- (1) an online zoom meeting with both parents (together or successively)
- (2) online questionnaires for each of the parents, in addition to
- (3) a lab visit with 10-to-14-month-old child and one of the parents.

(1) The online zoom meeting with each of the parents. The participating parents will be trained to provide the anxious/confident responses to the strangers in this online meeting. We will make use of example videos of anxious/confident responses during this training. Upon completion of the training, we will videotape parents' trained anxious/confident reactions with the experimenter who will play the stranger. Your child will watch the recording of your confident or anxious response to the stranger in the lab visit. The stranger will also have a real-life interaction with your child in the lab visit. The online meeting takes around 20-25 minutes with each parent.

(2) Online questionnaires for each of the parents. The questionnaires include questions about general sociodemographics, and about how parents and children have been feeling and doing. They can be completed online and will be sent to you by e-mail. It takes approximately 30 minutes to complete the questionnaires.

(3) The Lab Visit consists of three parts:

1. The participating infant will be shown the recorded videos of the parents on a video screen.

2. The participating infant will be participating in social tasks with the stranger. We will be recording children's responses to the stranger in the videos during these tasks, while also measuring the children's physiological responses using mobile devices.

3. The participating child will be shown up to 3 computer tasks. These tasks involve pictures of human faces, including the strangers in the social tasks. Children's looking behavior and pupil responses will be followed by using mobile eye-tracking during the tasks. These short tasks will be divided with short breaks and/or snacks. The parents will be in the room at all times during the lab visit.

If you have further questions, the test leader will be happy to answer those before starting the Lab Visit.

Part of this study includes the questionnaires that both of the parents complete before this Lab Visit. If you have not completed the questionnaires before the visit, then you will be asked to complete the questionnaires during the Lab Visit.

Who can participate?

You can join our study if:

- You and our partner have a 10 to-14-month-old child. Children must be older than 10 and younger than 14 months at the scheduled date of the lab visit.
- Your child is full-term, and his/her birth weight is 2500 g or higher
- There were no severe complications, and no health issues during pregnancy or after birth
- The two of you are speaking Dutch or English
- One of the parents is able to visit our Lab with their infant on a week-day

What are the dangers or risks?

Based on previous experience with this procedure, there is no foreseeable risks or dangers to the participants during these procedures.

Privacy and confidentiality

The participation in this research is confidential. All possible steps have been taken to assure participants' privacy in this case. The collected data will be stored on the university departmental network storage, and a secure online server. All files containing personal information will be password protected, and the hard drives will be stored on locked cabinets in the department. We will separately ask consent for the use of the video recordings at presentations, conferences, or for educational purposes. No names or contact information will be directly associated with your videotape or data. Instead, we will use code numbers for confidentiality. The information we collect from children and parents will not be used to evaluate you or your child in any way. Our research looks at groups of children who behave similarly and not to single individuals. The physiology data collected in the study does not allow any medical statements, and coincidental findings in the individual level will not be interpretable by the researchers. The participants are advised to visit their general physician in case they would like to know more about their physical functioning.

What are the rights of the participants?

Taking part in this research study is entirely voluntary. To be able to participate to this study, it is necessary that (1) We ask both parents to fill in an online consent form to participate in the questionnaire component. (2) Both parents of participating infants provide verbal consent for online participation during the zoom meeting which will be recorded. (3) the parent who brings the infant to the lab visit will provide an active consent by signing the *Informed Consent Form* at the end of this document.

Can I stop when I want?

Yes. This means that parents have the right to stop at any time without needing to provide a reason for that, and without any consequences. You can also withdraw your participation up to 24 hours after the experiment by sending an email to Evin Aktar (E.Aktar@fsw.leidenuniv.nl)

What is the compensation for participation?

Participating families will receive 40 euros as compensation for this study. Travelling expenses to the lab visit will be reimbursed.

Who is paying for this research study?

This project is funded by Nederlands Organization for Scientific Research.

Questions and Concerns

The test leader will be happy to respond your questions during the lab visit and the online zoom meeting.

More questions concerning this research can be directed to the main researcher: Dr. Evin Aktar (071-5275228, E.Aktar@fsw.leidenuniv.nl).

To report a complaint about this research, you can contact the main researcher: Dr. Evin Aktar (071-5275228, E.Aktar@fsw.leidenuniv.nl).

For ethical conflicts that cannot be resolved with the main researcher, you can contact the Ethics Commission of the Department of Psychology in Leiden University: ethiekpsychologie@fsw.leidenuniv.nl.

For questions about privacy, you can send an email to privacy@bb.leidenuniv.nl.

Thank you for your interest, we hope that you are interested in joining the BRAVE study

On behalf of the research team,