

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH

PROJECT TITLE: Evaluating children’s social vulnerability using computer role-play

INVESTIGATORS

We are a group of researchers studying on children’s social vulnerability. The research is supervised by Dr Thusha Rajendran. The investigator is Evi Bali.

AIM OF STUDY

The aim of the study is to inform future intervention strategies related to child safety and protection to improve socially vulnerable children’s social skills in both educational and clinical settings. This study will help us gain a better understanding of children's ‘social cognitive style’ (which is important for both social and academic success) and give us a greater insight into the social world from their perspective. This study will allow us to develop a bespoke role-play software that will be used both a research and intervention tool.

SAMPLE

- Approximately 100 children (boys and girls), their parents, and teachers
- Children with typical development from local schools, Adoption UK and Scottish Attachment in Action organization.
- Age range:
Children of age 5 to 10 years old.
Parents above 18
Teachers above 18

PROCEDURE

In this study, we want to see the social response of children and see their real reaction right at the moment of something is happening to see children’s true vulnerabilities

We use computer task (Test-Play software), the British Picture Vocabulary Scale and the Waiting Room Observation questionnaire to collect data from children. We use the Strength and

Difficulties Questionnaire and the Relationship Problems Questionnaire to collect data from parents (carers) and teachers.

We recruit children from local schools, Scottish Attachment in Action organization and Adoption UK.

We ask permission from parents (carers) and schools, informing them about the process of the assessment and giving them to complete a permission form and the questionnaires. After parents and teachers returning us the completed form and questionnaires, we visit children in their schools and during the school hours we will conduct the study. We may need to visit some children from Schottish Attachment in Action organization and Adoption UK in their homes.

Children are asked to complete dialogues in 10 short scenarios playing with computer software: Test-Play. Then children are asked to answer to few questions about their receptive vocabulary showing pictures rating the vocabulary development of children with the British Picture Vocabulary Scale. During the process the researcher complete the WRO questionnaire collecting information by the child's behaviour. This procedure lasts 1h and 30 min.

Parents are asked to complete two short questionnaires: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire; and Relationship Problems Questionnaire to capture their perspective for their children. It lasts 5-10min.

Teachers are asked to complete two short questionnaires: Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire; and Relationship Problems Questionnaire to capture their perspective for their children. It lasts 5-10min.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr. Thusha and Evi Bali will be glad to answer your questions about this study and provide additional information on results if requested. You may contact them at t.rajendran@hw.ac.uk or +44 (0) 131 451 3456 and p.bali@hw.ac.uk

This study has been approved by University Ethics and the approval number for the application was approval number for this application is 2019-152.