

Project Title: Emotion Detection System for Children with Level 1 Diagnosis of Autism

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Summary of Information Sheet for parents/guardians of children participating in the research study titled “Emotion Detection System for Children with Level 1 Diagnosis of Autism”

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This document is [a summary](#) of the aspects of the research titled above. Please, take the time to read also the full **Information Sheet** document before agreeing to allow your child to be part in the study.

THE RESEARCHERS

I am a PhD candidate in the College of Engineering and Informatics, Data Science Institute - NUI Galway. I am under the supervision of Karen Young, Prof. Mathieu d'Aquin, Dr Jennifer Holloway (NUI Galway), and Dr Manel Zarrouk (from USPN University Sorbonne Paris North). This research study is investigating how to create an Emotion Identifier computer system for children with Level 1 Diagnosis of Autism. This research was approved by both the NUI Galway's Data Protection Officer and the NUI Galway's Ethics Committee (an ethics committee that helps protect people involved in research).

THE RESEARCH

If you and your child agree to take part in this study:

- Your child will be asked to attend two sessions to do some activities in a computer that will evoke emotions responses from them (for example, happiness, excitement, anxiety) while they will be audio and video recorded. Example of activities they will do are, watching a video, play a game and complete a math quiz. This will take around 30 minutes for each session.
- You will be asked to attend sessions to watch the recorded video of your child's session while indicates which emotion they are engaged with.

The sessions will happen entirely online. You and your child can participate from home. You and your child will be required to attend two different sessions. The sessions will be scheduled to best suit yours and your child's available time.

There is a possibility the study may cause some temporary level of emotional stress on the children participating in it through two tasks: Playing a game and answering a math quiz. Because of that, we put in place actions to ensure the emotional wellbeing of the participants. Those actions are: After each of the tasks, there are calming contents to support the child's emotion regulation, for example, child-friendly guided breathing exercises. On top of that, the child can request for a pause or to stop the session altogether. Another key point to make sure the child is well is the presence of the parent, who can also request a pause or to stop the session. Additionally, the researcher conducting the study received training on how to interact with children with autism and is supported by researchers, during the sessions, with extensive experience in working with children with autism. They have the training and experience on how to intervene if the child becomes upset during the study.

The information gathered will be treated with privacy and anonymity. No information regarding your child will be revealed in this research. Information will be stored safely with access only available to the research team listed above and it will be destroyed after 3 years. The anonymised results from the study will be included in a thesis and may be published and discussed at academic conferences or in journals.

Your child doesn't have to take part in this study if you/they don't want to and you/they can withdraw from the study at any time, without saying why. If you have any questions or if anything is unclear just ask me, I am happy to discuss the study with you.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read this, and please **also read the complete Information Sheet** with more details on this research.