

Invitation letter to parents/guardians

DATE: 17/08/2021

Dear parent/guardian,

My name is Annanda Sousa. I am a PhD candidate in the College of Engineering and Informatics, Data Science Institute - NUI Galway. I am under the supervision of Prof. Mathieu d'Aquin (mathieu.daquin@nuigalway.ie), Karen Young (karen.young@nuigalway.ie), Dr Manel Zarrouk and Dr Jennifer Holloway (jennifer.holloway@nuigalway.ie).

I would like to invite you and your child to take part in my research. My research aims to create a computer system which can automatically recognise children's emotions. We are looking for children (8-12 years old) with Level 1 Diagnosis of Autism and their parents to take part in this research which will inform the development of further supports in the future.

Participation is entirely online and would involve attending 2 sessions in which your child will do some activities on a computer with the intent to evoke different emotions. The activities are watching a video, playing a game and answering a math worksheet. Your child will be audio/video recorded during the session. Also, you will be asked to attend 2 online sessions to watch the recorded video of your child and identify which emotions they are demonstrating. Each session will take no longer than 30 minutes. We will schedule the sessions to best suit your available time.

Yours and your child's participation will be invaluable in this research in creating a system that automatically identifies children's emotions, in particular for children with Level 1 Diagnosis of Autism. If you have any questions or if anything is unclear please get in touch, I am happy to discuss the study with you. If you would like to know more, please visit the project's website (<http://emotion-asd.datascienceinstitute.ie/>) where you can find all the details to read in your own time.

This research was approved by both the NUI Galway's Data Protection Officer and the NUI Galway's Ethics Committee.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,
Annanda Sousa

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Project's website: <http://emotion-asd.datascienceinstitute.ie/>

College of Engineering and Informatics

Data Science Institute/Insight Centre for Data Analytics: <https://dsi.nuigalway.ie/>

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