Protocol title: Testing & Development
Principal Investigator: [Researcher]

Parental or Guardian Permission Form

Your child is invited to participate in a research study being conducted by [Researcher] and her assistants. The purpose of the research is to study how taking tests affects what children learn in school. The session may be tape-recorded.

The first task involves a general world knowledge test. Your child will answer a series of general knowledge questions. (This may or may not be preceded by a brief learning phase, where they can learn some of the information before they are tested on it.) The second task looks at problem solving abilities. Your child will solve some simple puzzles. The third task is another measure of general world knowledge. Your child will answer another series of general knowledge questions.

There are no known risks associated with this research other than the potential for mild boredom or fatigue. There are no known benefits other than the knowledge gained from having participated.

The experiment will take no longer than 30 minutes. Your child will receive a small toy for his/her participation. You will receive $12 for your travel expenses.

Your child’s participation is voluntary. He/she may choose not to participate in this research study. If he/she agrees to participate, he/she can withdraw from the study at any time. (He/she will still receive the small toy.)

We will do everything we can to protect your child’s privacy. His/her name will be recorded only for scheduling and consent purposes. All data will be identified only by a subject number. Any materials containing his/her name (e.g., consent forms) will be kept in a separate locked file. Any record linking your child’s name to a particular subject number will be destroyed once the study is complete. His/her identity will not be revealed in any publication that may result from this study.

Because these tests are not diagnostic in nature, we cannot provide you with any of your child’s individual test results.

If you have any questions at this point please ask the experimenter. You can also contact the investigator, [Researcher], at [phone number]. If you have questions about your child’s rights as a research participant, you may contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Committee at 919-684-3030.

I have read this consent form and know that I may ask questions now and any time. I will also be given a copy of the consent form for my records. I consent for my child to participate in the research described above.

Print the name of the child: _________________________________________________

Date: _________________________________ Signed: _____________________________________

(Parent/Guardian of participant)
Child Assent Script

We are trying to learn about how children learn in school. We think that children learn when they take tests and quizzes. Does your teacher ever ask you questions or give you quizzes?

We have some questions to ask you. If you want to, you can try answering these questions. And if you decide to answer our questions, we will also ask you to do some puzzles and answer some more questions. It will take about 30 minutes. Would you like to hear some more about the questions and puzzles?

[If yes, then:] Well, you might find it a little boring, or you might find it kind of interesting or fun, since we will ask you about some different things and do some puzzles that are a little different than what you’ve been doing in school.

Also, some of the questions might be hard, but don’t worry. They are supposed to be difficult!

We’re also going to tape you during the study. Is that okay? Can we record you during the study? If you don’t want us to, we won’t, it’s completely up to you.

We would like to understand how children like you learn so that teachers will be able to teach children the best way that they can.

You get to decide whether or not you want to do this, and no one will be mad at you if you decide not to. It will not make any difference to your grades in school. If you try it and decide that you want to stop, that’s OK too. Just tell me that you would like to quit.

What else would you like to know about answering questions and doing the puzzles that I have?

If you don’t have any questions now, you can still ask me at any time, okay?

Would you like to do some puzzles and answer some questions, or would you rather not?