

## Go! Gelato - Online study

### The development of automatism in every-day life action control

#### Why?

This research study is about the development of the control of routines (such as washing one's hands, brushing one's teeth, etc.). In particular, we want to see how automatization occurs and if specific parts of action sequences are more challenging than others.

#### What?

We designed a fun computer game in which your child will make virtual ice creams! We record selection times and mouse trajectories.



#### Who?

The study is for children aged between **7 and 12 years old**.

The game mainly operates through mouse control (children have to click and move the ingredients in order to prepare the ice cream). We recommend using a **computer mouse** because the game will work more smoothly this way. However, if your child is very comfortable with using the touchpad/trackpad, this is fine too.

#### When?

The full study comprises 4 sessions. **Session 1 involves a video call** with the experimenter, with screen sharing during the game, and it should last around **30 minutes** (45 min maximum).

If your child wants to, they will be able to continue with 3 short sessions, independently from the experimenter (not involving a video call). Two successive sessions must take place on different days, and can be up to 4 days apart. Everything will be explained to you during the first session.

#### How?

You need a **computer with a mouse**; beware that tablets or smartphones won't work. It's happening entirely on a web browser; you don't need to install anything. For session 1, we will send you a **Zoom video call** invite. Optionally, in some of the sessions we may ask if you are willing for us to video-record your child during the session via your webcam (by default, we won't record anything).

#### Interested?

Please send an email to: [acarte06@mail.bbk.ac.uk](mailto:acarte06@mail.bbk.ac.uk), and I will get back to you to arrange a video call!

## STUDY INFORMATION SHEET

*Before you decide to take part in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. A member of the research team can be contacted if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.*

Your child has been proposed to participate in this study because your child age is the right age for our research.

It aims to be a fun experience for your child. We hope to better understand how children control their everyday-life action routines (for example: washing their hands, laying the table, tying shoelaces, etc.). This study will be completed by May 2021.

In this study, your child will be invited to play a game on your computer, with the mouse and with sound on (on headphones or speakers). The game consists of making virtual items according to the characters' favourite recipe, a certain number of times, so that actions becomes closer to routine. We look at how children automatize their actions, and how action is controlled at specific points in the sequence. These are not tests of individual performance; we are interested in how children of different ages learn and develop as a whole. We record duration and trajectory of the mouse throughout the game.

Additionally, at the next page you will be given the option to opt-in for video recording your child during the game via your webcam. In the case where you give permission, we will invite you to set the angle of view of your webcam. The recording would be used to extract subtle head and body movements that are linked to attention, which we expect to vary naturally as the task unfolds. The video won't be used outside the research project, i.e. it will only be accessible to the immediate researchers involved in the project.

There are no disadvantages or risks in participation. There will be clear instructions on when the parent/guardian or the child should take control of the computer.

The results will be published in a PhD thesis, in journals and/or presented at conferences. Results are normally presented in terms of groups of individuals. If any individual data are presented, the data will be anonymous, without any means of identifying the individual.

Your child's involvement in the study will remain confidential except in the highly unlikely event that the researcher has a serious concern regarding a child protection issue.

You and/or your child have the right to withdraw participation at any point up until the point that the anonymised data can no longer be identified.

*The project has received ethical approval from the Department of Psychological Sciences Research Ethics Committee of Birkbeck, University of London*

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**Co-applicant contact details: Aude Carteron acarte06 [at] mail.bbk.ac.uk**

*For information about Birkbeck's data protection policy please visit: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/about-us/policies/privacy>*

*If you have concerns about this study, please contact the School's Ethics Officer at:  
[ethics@psychology.bbk.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@psychology.bbk.ac.uk)*

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*You also have the right to submit a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office  
<https://ico.org.uk/>*