

**Participant Information Sheet**

[Note to reviewers: The participant information sheet will be shown on page 1 of the online survey. Participants will be able to save a copy.]

Study Title: **Outdoor play: Investigating parental and educators’ perceptions of risks, benefits and competencies of children aged 2-5 years during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Researcher Details:** Dr Anne Martin (Anne.Martin@Glasgow.ac.uk) and Dr Paul McCrorie (Paul.McCrorie@Glasgow.ac.uk), MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow

**Introduction**

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the researcher/s if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take some time to decide whether you wish to take part.

**What is the purpose of this research study?**

This study aims to get a better understanding of how parents or carers living in Scotland perceive outdoor play situations in terms of their risks and benefits for children aged 2-5 years. This would help us informing the development of outdoor play and learning opportunities for young children in the community as well as in childcare settings.

**What is involved in the study?**

You will be asked to complete an online survey that will take approximatively 25 minutes to complete. The survey has three parts:

1. The first part of the questionnaire will collect information about you and your child.
2. The second part of the questionnaire will present you with 10 outdoor situations that you may experience with your child(ren). If you have more than one child between 2-5 years, you will be asked to choose one for which you will complete the survey for. You will be asked to judge the risk and benefit of the situation and under what conditions would you allow your child to do this activity. For each of the 10 situations you will find up to 7 questions. The questions are the same for each situation but depending on your responses, additional questions may display throughout.
3. The final part of the survey will ask questions about outdoor activities and childcare during the coronavirus lockdown and the current COVID-19 situation.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

We are looking for parents or carers in Scotland who have a child between 2-5 years. Anyone fitting those criteria can take part in this study.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, you do not – taking part in this study is voluntary. On completion of this survey you will be asked if you would like to be contacted in the future about taking part in related research. When we do contact you to take part in related research, you can still decide not to take part.

**Who will have access to my responses?**

In the first instance, only the research team involved in this project will access the responses from the study. Once the questionnaire has been completed your responses will be anonymised by linking your responses with a participant number, as well as removing the identifying information (your name and email address should you decide to provide these).

Once all identifying information has been removed, and we have carried out our own analysis of the data, we will add the anonymised data to online data sharing websites to allow other researchers to examine the data. We will not share any information, which may identify any participants. Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies. You can find the Privacy Notice via the link at the of the screen (see “Legal Notice”). [Note to reviewers: The survey platform LimeSurvey allows an embedded Privacy Notice].

**Where will my responses be stored and how long will it be kept for?**

The data we collect will be stored indefinitely on online password protected storage systems within the University of Glasgow. Completion of this survey is anonymous. If you decide to provide your name and contact details, your identifying information will be kept separately from the survey responses stored on a secure network drive at the University of Glasgow until the end of the study (31st August 2021). We will then delete identifying information.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

We will seek to publish the results in an academic journal and scientific conference. We will also share the findings with other parents and people working in the Early Years sector. Please be assured that we will keep your participation in this study and your responses confidential. Your responses cannot be linked to you as there will be no mention of your name.

**Who has approved this study?**

This research study has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the College of Social Sciences, University of Glasgow. To pursue any complaint about the conduct of the research: contact the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, Dr Muir Houston, email: [Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk)

**Who is funding this study?**

This study is funded by the UK Medical Research Council (MC\_UU\_12017/14, MC\_UU\_12017/10) and the Scottish Chief Scientist Office (SPHSU14, SPHSU10).

Thank you for reading this information – please contact us with any questions if you are unsure about what is written here. To retain a copy of the information sheet, please download your survey responses after completion of the survey.