

Lingo Kids Study – Information for Teachers / Pre-school managers

Lingokids is an app developed by Monkimum which is a software company. The app is targeted at children aged 2 – 8 and is a suite of game-based learning activities to improve and teach the English language.

<https://lingokids.com/>

Lingokids are supporting a PhD studentship and ChiCI (www.chici.org) group at UCLan to test out the app with children from Pre Schools and Reception classes. They want to see how the app compares to a teacher led story and the imaginative play in the home corner. The ChiCI group at UCLan has been evaluating digital apps with children for many years. We have a long tradition of working with schools and children and we have many activities that schools can ask us to facilitate including visits to the University where children can interact with many exciting technologies. Feel free to ask us about this while we are working with you.

For this current study we want to work with children over one day with two sessions in total on days / times that suit your school. Three or four of our team will attend at the agreed time and will be with the children for around 2 hours. During that time one third of the children will be working on the app on tablets with special child friendly earphones that we can bring with us. Another third will be listening to a story read by their teacher and the last group will have free play in the home corner. Ideally these activities would take place in three, but at least two, different spaces. If children get bored, seem upset or simply don't want to join in then we respect that entirely. No child will be pressured to participate 😊.

Children will be enabled to tell us how much they are enjoying what they are doing with smiley face scales. After each learning event we will put on short activity (for about 3 minutes) that will be used to capture some of what the children have learned. We will record this using pen and pencil. We will also use pen and pencil methods to record engagement in some of the activities. At the end of each session, we will ask what the children enjoyed the most with picture choices. We will be glad of any feedback you can give us.

The only information we will take from the study will be in the form of notes made and children's feedback as smiley scores. Nothing will be video, or audio recorded; we will not record the children's names, but we will ask you to maintain a list of children who worked in the study to ensure consents are in place and that children all get an equal chance with all the activities. See the parent information sheet for more detail. Our ChiCI staff are used to working with children in safe ways and will bring with them current DBS evidence and be able to also show UCLan staff/student ID.

We will also endeavour, if you want us to, to come back and talk to the children about what we have found out from what we collected from them. Details of the project will also be available on our website. We may use the findings to write up a research paper. In this case we may ask you if you would like your school / pre - school mentioned in the paper's acknowledgments section.

We hope to start this project as soon as possible. We look forward to working with you.

To iron out any questions you may have one or more of the team will visit / call you at a time that is convenient to you



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan



Parent Information Sheet – LingoKids Project

A team of three or four academics from UCLan will be visiting YOURSCHOOL, to work with children doing simple activities as part of a project that is being funded by a software company called Monkimum. Monkimum make educational software for children including the LingoKids app which is targeted to children aged 2 – 8. Monkimum and the UCLan team have join to support a PhD student to try out this app with children and to see how much fun it is and how it helps children learn.

The UCLan team will spend around 2 hours with the children, under the supervision of the YOURSCHOOL staff, listening to a story, working in the home corner through free play, and helping children with the app. At the end of each session, children will do a fun activity to see how much fun they had. In some sessions one of the UCLan staff may make some notes about how engaged children were. This data will all be anonymous - the UCLan team will not be gathering children’s names. The teaching staff will manage participation and will tell us which children will be doing which activities. Data we collect may be used by the UCLan team to report back to the company. It may also be used in an academic paper. Rest assured that this data will NOT have your child’s name on it – the team from UCLan will not collect any information about the children. You can ask to see what data we have collected.

The UCLan team have a long experience of working with schools and children. You can check them out at www.chici.org and they will all be DBS checked and will follow all safety procedures while in YOURSCHOOL. Extra information about the project can be found at www.chici.org and you can contact the PhD student leading the project (Megan Archer) at marcher2@uclan.ac.uk or the PhD supervisor (Matthew Horton) at MPLHorton@uclan.ac.uk

if you want to ask anything. You can also contact the UCLan Officer for Ethics (OfficerForEthics@uclan.ac.uk) if you are at all unhappy with anything in this project.

We hope you will consent to your child taking part -if so, please return this consent form to school. We will not see this form – it will be kept at your school, and they will manage any withdrawal of consent for us. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

I / we (parent/guardian name), consent for (child name) to take part in the LingoKids study. I confirm that I have read the information sheet and have had an opportunity to ask questions. I understand that no data will be collected that is directly associated with my child and that my child’s name will not be used / placed on any artefacts collected in from the study. I understand that if I want to withdraw consent I can do at any time before, but if I withdraw consent during, the study it will not be possible to withdraw my child’s earlier contribution as it will have been a group contribution and will not be identified to my child. I understand that the data collected might be stored for upto 12 months at UCLan and can be used in publications and for the LingoKids company.

Signed Date.....