**Information on participating in:**

**Tone perception in infants**

# Introduction

You have been invited to participate in a scientific study in the Utrecht Babylab, a part of the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University. In the Babylab, language experiments are conducted with infants and children. A member of the Babylab team has contacted you by phone and/or e-mail and provided you some information about the study. In this letter you will find all additional information that you will need to make a decision about whether you would like to participate. The Babylab team asks you to read this information letter carefully. The study you have been invited for has been approved by the Faculty Ethics Assessment Committee of the Humanities (FEtC-H) of the Utrecht University.

# What are the background and goal of this study?

During the first year of life, children learn to distinguish the sounds of their native language and at the same time, they lose the ability to distinguish sounds of a foreign language. In this study, we aim at studying how children perceive sounds in a foreign language, and how their performance is related to their language background and age. We specifically test their sensitivity to ‘lexical tone’, a sort of melody that determines the meaning of words, as occurs in Chinese.

# How is this study done?

For this study we use EEG, or ‘electro-encephalography’, a technique that allows us to measure the brain activity of your child in a safe and non-invasive way. During the task, your child will be seated on a children’s chair next to yours. On the screen in front of you, videos will be shown and non-words will be played through loudspeakers next to the screen.

In order to measure brain activity, a cap will be placed on top of your child’s head before the experiment starts. The cap looks like a high-tech bathing cap. On the cap’s surface multiple sensors are located that will measure brain activity. Additional sensors will be mounted behind each of your child’s ears. Mounting the cap and applying the other sensors will take a little while. From the moment you enter the lab, we will undertake every effort to make your child feel at ease and help your child to get accustomed to the situation. During the preparation of the cap, children’s songs and videos will be played to divert your child’s attention. Once the cap is in place, children tend to forget that they are wearing it. Your child will probably not be bothered by it at all. In order to measure brain activity optimally, a little gel will be applied between each sensor and the child’s skin. To exclude allergic reactions, the experimenter will first apply a little bit of gel on the child’s wrist. If this results in an allergic reaction, the experiment will not be proceded.

# What is expected from you?

For this study, you will visit the lab twice. Each experiment takes about 30 minutes. Since the preparation takes some time, and since you will be given the opportunity to wash your child’s hair afterward, each lab visit will take between one hour and an hour and a half.

Additionally, we ask you to fill out a questionnaire, which will be sent to you in a separate email. The questionnaire is meant to measure the vocabulary size of your child and it takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. In case you will not be able to complete the questionnaire in one go, you will be able to save the intermediary results. Immediately after completing it, you will be able to compare your child’s results to those of other children of the same age and gender.

# What are possible advantages and disadvantages of this research?

Your child will not benefit from participating in this study. However, the results give us more insight in when sensitivity to foreign language decreases, which teaches us something about how native language are learned. In the future this information is useful for studies that investigate, for example, language disorders.

Possible disadvantages of this study might be the time investment it takes on your part, as you will have to visit the Babylab twice and you will have to fill out a questionnaire.

# What happens in case your child puts up resistance while participating in the study?

It may occur that your child does not collaborate during the experiment. The researcher will then consult you about whether the experiment should still continue or be stopped. In case your child puts up serious resistance, the experiment will always be stopped.

# Participation is voluntary

You decide on whether you want to participate in this study. Participation is voluntary. In case you decide not to participate, you need not do anything. You need not sign anything. You need not state the reason why. If you participate, you can always change your mind and stop at any given moment, even during the experiment.

# What happens to the collected data?

All your personal data will be managed by one person, the Babylab manager. In case you want to change your personal data, you can do so via the selfservice page on the Utrecht Babylab’s website. On that page, you can also unsubscribe, or enroll/register a new baby.

By law, we are under the obligation to store your child’s research data for 10 years, in an anonymized format. You automatically grant us permission for data storage by participating in this study. In case you disagree, you will not be able to participate in this study. The data to be collected during this study will be stored in a totally anonymized format and kept on a secured server at Utrecht University.

# Is there any compensation for participating in this study?

You will have your travel and parking costs reimbursed by the Utrecht Babylab. At the end of your visit, your child will be given a booklet to take home as a token of appreciation for participating.

# Approval of this study

The Faculty Ethics Assessment Committee of the Humanities (FEtC-H) of the Utrecht University has approved this study. In case you wish to file a complaint about this study, you can contact: fetc-gw@uu.nl

# More information about this research?

If you want more information about this research, now or in the future, you can contact XXX, by phone: (030-) 123 4567 ; or by e-mail: xxxxx@uu.nl; of through the website: [http://babylab.wp.hum.uu.nl](http://babylab.wp.hum.uu.nl/)

# Attached:

* + Consent form

We attach the form so you can read it before coming to the lab. You need not print it – we will do it for you. You can fill out and sign the consent form during your first visit to the lab.