

The Island Project School

Diddington Hall
Diddington Lane
Meriden
West Midlands
CV7 7HQ



Telephone 01675 442 588

Email admin@theislandproject.co.uk

Serving the needs of children with autism and related communication disorders in Warwickshire & the West Midlands

5th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

ABA Study

I have been contacted by Emma Rheeston who is currently studying psychology at Birmingham City University.

She is researching parental experiences of having a child with ASD who is following an ABA programme. She has contacted me to ask whether any parents of pupils would be interested in joining her study.

A brief overview received from Emma is set out below and a participation information sheet is attached for your use.

Taking part is entirely voluntary and this study is not connected to The Island Project in any way.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sarah Gallagher
School Principal

Overview

I am an undergraduate student, in my final year of my psychology degree at Birmingham City University. For my final year dissertation project, I am currently researching parental experiences of having a child with ASD whom is currently following an ABA programme within the West Midlands. I have experience as an ABA tutor and am very interested in highlighting the world of ABA as I feel there is not enough information out there for parents, especially from experienced parents with first-hand knowledge.

Participation is voluntary and will consist of a short interview conducted via phone, and will take no longer than hour. Your participation, should you wish to take part in the study, will be kept confidential at all times. I am interested in interviewing parents whose child has their programmes implemented during their time in education settings such as school, parents whom have their programmes home-based and parent whose children receive ABA in a cross-setting environment, such as some hours at school and some hours at home.

If you feel this may be something of interest to you please read through the information sheet attached which has all my contact details on and a more in-depth description of the study and what is entailed.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may

Thank-you for taking the time to consider this proposal.

The Island Project is a registered charity No: 1119034
Company registration No: 5924196 School Reg. No: 334/6010
Registered Address: Diddington Hall Diddington Lane Meriden CV7 7HQ
Website: www.theislandproject.co.uk

Parental Experiences of Applied Behaviour Analysis as an intervention for ASD.

Participant information sheet

The study

You are invited to participate in a study being conducted to examine parents' experiences of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) for their child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). If there are any questions or any information that you may need more clarity on after reading this information sheet, please feel free to contact the lead researcher, who's contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet.

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by an undergraduate student in her final year of a Psychology and Sociology combined degree, at Birmingham City University. The study, and the researcher, will be supervised by a senior lecture in developmental psychology, also from Birmingham City University psychology department who's contact details are also available at the end of the information sheet.

Why is the study being carried out?

The study is being carried out to examine parent's experiences of ABA for their child with ASD. This study aims to obtain a detailed picture, from the perspective of the parents involved first hand.

What is involved in participation of the study?

Participation in this study will involve an interview on a one-to-one basis with the lead researcher. This Interview will take place at a time, on a date that is convenient and will be pre-arranged once participants have given their written consent of participation in the study and should take no longer than an hour. This interview will be recorded on a digital tape recorder, later being transcribed for the purpose of an analysis by the lead researcher. During the process of transcription all personal details, such as names, will be removed to maintain participant confidentiality. A total of 5-7 interviews are planned for this study.

Potential benefits and risks of participation

Some parents may find a benefit in sharing their experiences with others and talking about their experiences with the researcher, whom is also a parent of a child with a diagnosis of ASD and has experience as an ABA tutor working with families within the field.

Potential distress may come from discussing the sensitive topics regarding your child's diagnosis and interventions, along with the impact this may have on all those involved. If you wish to refuse to answer certain questions throughout the interview, this is your right, along with the right to stop the interview at any time. If you do wish to stop the interview, it will be discussed with yourself as to whether we can use the information already gathered so far, however, if you do not wish for you interview to be used in the study, the recording will be erased, and all data gathered so far will be removed from the study.

To discuss any issues raised you may wish to contact your GP for advice or discuss the matter with your child's overseeing professional health care team. Please also feel free to contact the national Autism Society, or Autism West Midlands, contact details for both are as follows:

National Autism Society –

www.autism.org.uk

Advice line number – 08088004104 (Monday to Thursday – 10am – 4pm, Friday – 9am – 3pm, except bank holidays)

Autism West Midlands –

www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk

Advice line numbers – 0121-4507582 / 03030300111

Do I have to take part?

NO, participation is voluntary, and all participants have the right to withdraw their data from the study or change their mind prior to the interview taking place.

If I do agree to participate what happens next?

Once you have expressed an interest in participating, the lead researcher will contact you to answer any questions you may have regarding the study. Once you are happy, the lead researcher will then require you to electronically sign a consent form highlighting you are happy to commence. A date and time will then be arranged to conduct your interview at a time of convenience. The interview is intended to be an informal and relaxed experience and will be centred around some open-ended questions to guide the start of the interview. However, the main aim of the interview is to hear your own experiences that you deem important and vital to your individual situation. There will be no pressure to discuss any topics you do not wish to discuss.

Will I receive any payment for my participation?

No, there is no financial payment or benefit received for the participation in this study.

Has this study been checked to ensure it is suitable?

This study has been checked and approved by the faculty of Business, Law and Social Science Ethics Committee at Birmingham City University. This committee is responsible for making sure that research is ethical and fair to people whom take part.

How will my participation be kept private and confidential?

If you do participate in this study, only the research team will be aware of your participation and are bound by a code of confidentiality. This entails no personal details being shared with anyone outside the research team. Any information that is shared, such as a final written report, is fully anonymous with all names removed. This includes quotes used in the write up of findings.

What do I do next if I wish to participate in the study?

If you wish to participate in this study, and share your experiences of Applied Behaviour Analysis, then please express your interest by contacting the lead researcher using the contact details below.

Researcher contact details

Lead researcher

Mrs Emma Rheeston

Email: emma.rheeston@mail.bcu.ac.uk

Supervising lecturer

DR Jagjeet Jutley-Neilson

Email: jagjeet.jutley-neilson@bcu.ac.uk

Will I receive any notification of the outcome of this present study?

If you have expressed an interest in receiving information on the outcome of the current study, then a brief summary will be sent via email for you to read at your convenience. In the event of the study being published in a peer review piece of literature then a link to the publication will be emailed to you at an appropriate date. However, if you do not wish to receive such information that is fine also.

Thank-you for taking the time to read through this information and for considering participation in this study