Go! Gelato - Online study
The development of automatisms in every-day life action control

Why?
This research study is about the development of action control of routines such as washing one’s hands or brushing one’s teeth. In particular, we want to see how automatization occurs and if specific parts of action sequence 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?
Children aged 7 to 12 years old are invited to take part. The core of the study is played entirely with the mouse, so a requirement is that your child is comfortable enough using a computer mouse to click and move items on the computer screen.

When?
The full study consists of 4 sessions on 4 different days (consecutive days or up to 2 days apart), with 1 session per day. **Session 1 involves a videocall** with the experimenter, with screen sharing during the game. The other sessions are done independently from the experimenter, at your chosen time, by your child with your assistance for the consent form at the beginning. Session 1 should last about **30 to 45min** and the other sessions will be much shorter. Everything will be explained to you during the first session and rules reminded in the others.

How?
A computer (not a tablet nor a smartphone) with a mouse. It’s happening entirely on a web browser, you don’t need to install anything. For session 1, we will send you a **Zoom videocall** invite. Additionally, if you have a webcam and are willing to let us video-record, you will be prompted to let us know.

Interested?
Please send an email to: acarte05@mail.bbk.ac.uk and I will get back in touch shortly to arrange a videocall!
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 actions (for example: washing their hands, laying the table, remove shoes and hang coat upon entering the house, etc.). This study will be completed by April 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 baking a large number of virtual items according to the characters’ favourite recipe. 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. At the end we will ask a question and your child will be invited to reply via a voice recording, if you have a functional microphone.

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.

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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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

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