



INFORMATION SHEET FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Dear parent/guardian!

1. Invitation to participate in research

I invite your child to participate in the study *Children's Narratives of Child-Parent Conflicts over Digital Devices: A Relational Generational Approach to Children as Social Actors, Agency and Power*.

The study investigates stories told by 7–9-year-old children about disagreements between a fictional child and parent concerning the use of digital devices such as phones and tablets. The aim is to examine how children describe the characters' power, responsibility, rights, and ways of influencing situations, as well as what kinds of power relations and tensions they construct in child–parent interactions from a gender perspective.

This information sheet describes the study and what your child's participation in it means for you. The Privacy Notice provides information on the processing of your child's and your personal data.

As a parent/guardian, you are asked to give consent for your child's participation and to complete a background information form.

This is not a test or assessment, and nothing in the study evaluates the child, the family, learning, or language skills.

The conditions for participating in the study are:

- The child is 7–9 years old. Recruitment targets Grade 1–3 pupils in primary schools in Central Finland, but grade level is not an inclusion criterion.
- The parent/guardian has provided written consent for the child's participation.
- The child has sufficient Finnish or English skills to understand the idea of the study (voluntariness, right to withdraw) and to tell short stories based on picture cards.
- The child expresses willingness to participate and gives ongoing verbal assent.
- Participation is not too burdensome for the child, and no crisis situation in the child's life prevents safe participation (as identified and communicated by the guardian or school if needed).

A child cannot participate in the study if:

- The parent/guardian does not give consent or withdraws it.
- The child does not want to participate or withdraws assent at any time.
- The child does not have sufficient Finnish or English skills to understand essential participation information or to tell a short story based on picture cards.
- The child appears tired or temporarily overwhelmed; participation may then be postponed or not requested.

The study will involve approximately **20–30 children**.

This is a single study, and you will not be contacted again later in relation to this study.

2. Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. You and your child can refuse to participate in the study, withdraw from the study or your consent at any time, without stating a reason. This will have no negative consequences for you or your child.

Because recruitment takes place in classrooms, special care is taken to ensure that participation or refusal does not affect the child's position in the group. The researcher ensures that participation is not highlighted or valued in any special way. Recruitment procedures (sealed envelopes/electronic consent, teachers not handling consent forms, individual meetings) minimise peer pressure. Children are clearly informed that participation is voluntary and that everyone may decline without this affecting their standing at school or in class.

If you or your child decides to stop participating in the study or withdraw consent, any personal data, samples or other information collected to that point may still be used in the research if needed to ensure reliable results.

3. Progress of the study

Data collection will take place in 2026 in primary schools in Central Finland.

- You are asked to read the information sheet and the data protection notice, **sign the consent form**, and **complete the background information form about yourself and your child**. The signed consent and completed background form can be returned in a sealed envelope to your child's class teacher. The researcher will collect the envelopes unopened. The teacher will not see the contents.
- **You may instead complete the consent form and background form electronically. With this information sheet, you receive a separate paper with a QR code and link** to the secure electronic form (REDCap) provided by the university. **The electronic form includes the information sheet, privacy notice, consent form, and background information form. If completed electronically, paper forms do not need to be returned.**
- **The study includes 1–2 individual meetings during which the child tells a story based on picture cards about a disagreement related to digital device use.** The number of meetings depends on the child's own choice. The meeting begins with a brief introduction, a hand puppet demonstration, and an explanation of the study procedure. The researcher then presents the picture cards, and the child may tell a story. Emotion cards depicting various emotions are also shown. The story is audio- and/or video-recorded. If the child does not want to be recorded, the researcher writes down the story. The child may take breaks or end the meeting at any time.
- Each meeting lasts about 15–30 minutes and takes place during the school day and/or during after-school activities at the child's school, in a quiet room (e.g., small-group room or adjacent space). The language used with the child is agreed individually during the meeting.

4. Possible benefits from the study

By allowing your child to participate, you contribute to new knowledge about how 7–9-year-old children narrate conflicts about digital device use in child–parent relationships, and how they perceive agency, power, and interaction in everyday digitalised family life.

The findings may be useful for:

- **Research** – deepening understanding of how children conceptualise child–parent relationships and conflicts through storytelling

- **Education and school practice** – supporting children’s emotional skills, interaction, and constructive conflict resolution
- **Family support** – offering adults insights into how children understand digital-device-related situations and the strategies they envision for resolving them
- **Children’s wellbeing** – highlighting children’s voices and age-appropriate perspectives
- **Society** – informing the development of child and family services and digital education practices
- **Individual children** – creating a positive and engaging experience where children tell imaginative stories in a supportive environment, emphasising the value of their perspectives

5. Possible risks, harm, and inconvenience caused by the study as well as preparing for these

The child meets with the researcher in a calm and safe environment. The child is asked to tell an invented story based on picture cards. Children are not asked to share personal experiences, and stories are not shared with parents or school staff. The topic may occasionally evoke emotions because the stories involve disagreements between a child and parent. Therefore, the child is told clearly that participation is voluntary, and they may take a break, skip a question, or end the meeting at any time. The researcher monitors verbal and non-verbal cues and will stop the meeting immediately if the child appears tired, uncomfortable, or unwilling to continue. The time commitment is small (about 15–30 minutes) and meetings are scheduled to avoid disrupting the school day. School safety guidelines and current infection-control practices are followed.

Possible social risks are minimised by ensuring meetings occur without other children or teachers present, and the child’s participation or non-participation is not disclosed to classmates. Participating or not participating does not affect the child’s position at school. Audio/video recording is voluntary; if the child declines, the story is written down. Data are processed confidentially, and identifiable details are removed from reports so that children cannot be recognised. If any concern arises about the child’s wellbeing, the researcher follows school guidelines and the statutory child welfare duty to notify (Child Welfare Act §25) in cooperation with school staff. If participation raises worries or unpleasant feelings, the issue can be discussed with school support services (school counsellor, psychologist, nurse/doctor, special education teacher). The researcher can help with contacting the school welfare team if needed.

6. Insurance coverage for research subjects

The University of Jyväskylä has insurance for its activities and research participants. The participants are covered for accidents, damages and injuries inflicted due to an external cause. The accident insurance is valid during measurements, measurement visits and trips directly related to them.

7. Compensation for participation and reimbursement of study-related costs

Your child will receive a small non-monetary gift for participating in the study (e.g., a pencils, stickers, a small eraser, mini notebooks, or a keychain).

8. Funding of the study

The research is funded by The Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation.

9. Conflicts of interest

The study and the researcher have no conflicts of interest that could affect the study's independence.

10. Informing about research results and research outcomes

The study will yield scientific publications and conference/seminar presentations. Efforts will also be made to share findings to support practices related to children, families, and schools, as well as teacher and education training. Research participants or their families cannot be identified from publications or published results.

11. The use of research data after the study is finished

After the study ends, the research data (transcripts) will be anonymised by **31 December 2031**, meaning all identifiable information will be removed. The anonymised data will be archived in the permanent archive of the University of Jyväskylä approximately **01/2032** and will not be openly published. It may be used only with university permission and in accordance with research ethics. Audio and video recordings will be kept only for transcription and analysis and destroyed by **31 December 2030** at the latest, once transcripts have been checked. After anonymisation, the data no longer contain personal data.

12. Contact person for further information

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