

‘***Parent-child mutual interactions during pain experiences’***

We are looking for children and their parents to take part in a research study, to increase our understanding of how they react to the everyday experience of pain.

**Criteria**

1. At least one child between the ages of 3 and 5 years
2. The parent and child should both be generally pain-free and healthy
3. Parent should be able to read and write in English

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**What is the research about?**

Pain is an integral part of children’s everyday experience and children mainly depend upon their parents for help and care. We need to better understand how parents and their children react to each other during and after their child goes through one of those everyday tumbles or short painful experiences that happen while playing at home. This will help us understand how children learn to cope and recover from pain.

**Who are the study researchers?**

The study team working on this project are researchers from the Centre for Pain Research at NUI Galway, supervised by Dr Line Caes. All researchers have been trained for the study and have been subject to security vetting by *An Garda Siochána*. This is for the protection of your child.

**What will be involved if we take part?**

Each family will be observed at home. This session will be video-recorded for a maximum of three hours, and you will complete some short questionnaires before and after (*total participation time*: up to 4 hours):

1. The parent is first asked to report on how they typically react to their child when they are in pain.
2. During the observation the family can behave as normal around their house with minor restrictions (i.e. no television watching; no outgoing phone calls/visitors; restricted to two rooms of their choice). Families are randomly allocated to either have a researcher present during the observation or no researcher present.
3. Every time the child hurts him/herself or experiences pain, we will ask the parent and child some questions about the experience, once the child is soothed.
4. After the observations, parents will report on how they felt about being watched (either by the researcher or the video camera). This evaluation sheet will be completely anonymous, and won’t include names or participation details, so they can be completely honest.

The observations are video-recorded so we can watch and code them afterwards, which is more reliable than coding ‘in the moment’. All videos and paperwork are stored in a secure and confidential manner (no names attached; only participant number) and only the researcher team would have access to them.

We understand that three hours is a substantial time commitment, and even then, a painful event might not happen. With this study we are trying to find out if a 3-hour time-frame is appropriate, so it is no problem if no painful events occur during the observations.

To thank everyone for their participation, parents will receive a €50 One-4-All voucher after the session and children will receive a Junior Scientist certificate.

**Where can I get further information?**

If you have any queries relating to the research, or would like more information about participating in this study, you can contact Dr Line Caes at 091-493457 or [line.caes@nuigalway.ie](mailto:line.caes@nuigalway.ie)

*Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.*