Joining up the Dots in Dyslexia

Information Sheet

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Introduction

Please take time to read the following information carefully. Do ask if you would like more information, or if anything is unclear.

What is the aim of the study?

We have developed a simple, computer-based “dot-to-dot” task that we think might be useful in helping to diagnose young children with dyslexia – perhaps at an earlier stage than is possible using existing screening tests. In order to test this idea, we first need to see whether people with identified dyslexia perform differently on our dot-to-dot task than those without dyslexia.

What will happen if I agree to take part?

If you are happy to take part, we will agree a mutually convenient time for you to come along to the Perception Lab at Edinburgh Napier University, Sighthill. There, we will go over the procedure in more detail and ask you to sign a consent form. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to wear eye tracking glasses and complete a series of short exercises designed to examine a range of general verbal and non-verbal abilities (using standard psychometric tests), as well as performance on our “dot-to-dot” task. The whole process should take no longer than 1 hour to complete. While completing these tasks, you will be asked to wear a pair of lightweight eye tracking glasses which will record your eye movements.
**Example of tasks**

1) The Dot-To-Dot Task

2) Non-Verbal Task: Which Pattern Best Fits The Box With The Question

3) Motor Task: How Many Beads Can You Thread In 30 Seconds?

4) How Many Anagrams Can You Solve In Seven Minutes?

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**Do I have to take part?**

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. Even if you have signed the consent form, you are free to withdraw at any time during the study without giving a reason.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

The study will increase our understanding of how dyslexic and non-dyslexic individuals process visual information. If we find there is a difference between dyslexic and non-dyslexic groups, we will develop the “dot-to-dot” system into a screening tool that could be used to help diagnose children with dyslexia at an earlier stage than is currently possible – perhaps even before they learn to read.

Participants may also find that taking part makes them more aware of their own visual and motor skills.

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Is participation in this study confidential?
All information which is collected in this study will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used for the purposes of the research described here. Only members of the research team will have access to the data. We expect to publish the aggregated results in academic journals, but these publications will not contain any information that could be used to identify participants.

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet.

If you would like to take part, or have any questions, please contact:
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