

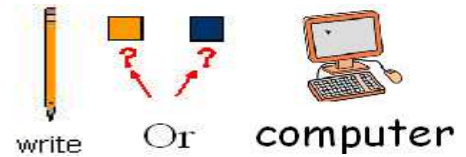
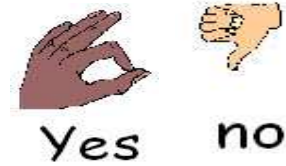
The Impact of Assistive Technology on Writing Productivity of Young Writers with Autism Spectrum Disorder

MINOR INFORMED ASSENT FORM - You can choose!

WHAT WE'RE DOING.

This research study is about using technology (computers) to write. We want to find out if using pictures and word boxes on a computer could help you with writing. We will get together at your school for about 30 -- 45 minutes at a time. I will

show you pictures that you can write or type about. After we do that for a while I will teach you how to use two programs on the computer that will put pictures on top of words like you see on this page or give you a box of words to help you spell what you want to write. We can see if using these programs and the computer helps you to be able to write more sentences than if you were using a pencil and paper. We also want to hear what you think about your best way to write.



WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

Nothing bad could happen to you if you decide to help us with our study.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Unfortunately, there is nothing you will get to keep because you have helped us. You will be able to learn about this new software and to help us figure out if computers can help others like you.



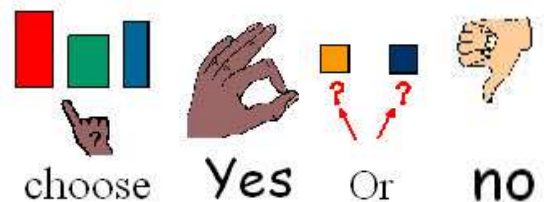
YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT SAFE.

Any information we get from you will be kept safe. You will choose a name that we will put on the writing you do. No one else will know what words or sentences you typed, or what you said. They will only know that a child typed it or said it.



PARTICIPATION: YOU HAVE THE CHOICE.

You can choose to be in this study or you can choose to not be in this study. You can say, "No," at any time, even if you have already started working with us. We promise not to be mad.



WHAT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?

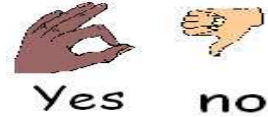
Ms. Kenney is working with Dr. King-Sears at George Mason University to do this study. Your parents can call Dr. King-Sears (703) 993-3916 or e-mail her at mkingsea@gmu.edu or call Ms. Kenney at 703-578-0345, or email at shkmpower@gmail.com if you or if they have questions or want to talk about any problems. Also, George Mason University has a special office that deals with people like you, who help with research studies. Your parents can call that office at 703-993-4121 if you have questions that we can't answer. George Mason University has looked at the way we are doing this study and have given us permission to do it.



questions

ASSENT

I have read this form and had my questions answered. I agree to help with this study. Circle your choice.



Print Name

Sign Name

Date of Signature

IS IT OK TO GET VIDEO RECORDINGS OF YOU?

You may be video taped (to see and hear what you and I are saying) during our times together as you learn how to use the software. There are two reasons why I want to make a video of our times together. The first reason is that I want to make sure that I say all the words I need to say while helping you learn about the software. The second reason is that during the survey, I will be asking about what you think of the software and I don't want to miss anything you say so we can learn from you.



I agree to be video taped during the sessions. Circle your answer.



I agree to be video taped during the survey. Circle your answer.



Most of the pictures were found in Pixwriter 3.0 by Slater software.
<http://www.slatersoftware.com/pixwriter.html>

The Impact of Assistive Technology on Writing Productivity of Young Writers with Autism Spectrum Disorder

INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR PARENTS OR LEGALLY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

This research is being conducted to determine the impact of picture-to-text software and word prediction software on young children who have experienced difficulty with expressing thoughts in writing. We will explore the use of PixWriter, an assistive technology software program that puts words and pictures together as a person types and word prediction, a software that uses letters your child types to anticipate words that he/she is trying to spell. The targeted population for this software is children who have trouble putting their thoughts in writing. If you agree that your child may participate, he or she will meet with the researcher at his/her school or summer camp for 16 to 25 sessions. Most of the sessions will take around 30 minutes. During each session your child will choose from a set of cards to determine the order of the writing conditions. He/she will be given a picture prompt and asked to write with pencil and paper for five minutes for one condition and another prompt will be given and your child will be given five minutes to type about that picture for the other condition. After a number of sessions your child will learn how to use the features of the picture-to-text software and word prediction software. The 2 training sessions will take from 40 to 50 minutes. After the training, your child will continue to write about 2 picture prompts using paper and pencil and the computer software with one and/or both features. When we compare the length and quality of the two types of samples, it will give the researchers a better understanding of how the availability and use of assistive technology such as picture-to-text and word prediction software programs may, or may not, help children with writing difficulties, to complete writing tasks. Both at the beginning and end of the study you and your child will each be asked to complete a survey about the study and the software.

RISKS

There are no foreseeable risks to you or your child for participating in this research.

BENEFITS

There are no direct benefits to you or your child as a participant other than your child will learn to use the picture-to-text software and word prediction software and will use it for a while to see if it helps them while writing. This research may help future children with writing difficulties.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The data in this study will be confidential. While it is understood that no computer transmission can be perfectly secure, reasonable efforts will be made to protect the confidentiality of your child's writing samples. All electronically, digitally, or personally recorded data, including the surveys, will be labeled with a name your child helps to choose. Your child's name will not be included on any collected data. Through the use of a code name, the researcher will be able to link your child's information to his or her writing samples. Only you, your child, and the researcher will know the code name.

PARTICIPATION

Your child's participation is voluntary, and he or she may withdraw (or you may withdraw him or her) from the study at any time and for any reason. If you do not agree for your child to participate or if you withdraw him or her from the study, there is no penalty or loss of benefits to which you or your child are otherwise entitled. There are no costs to you or any other party.

CONTACT

This research is being conducted by Susan Kenney under the direction of Dr. Peggy King-Sears at George Mason University. Dr. Peggy King-Sears may be reached at 703-993-3916 or mkingsea@gmu.edu for questions or to report a research-related problem. You may also contact Susan Kenney at 703-578-0345 or shkmpower@gmail.com, regarding questions about this research. You may contact the George Mason University Office of Research Subject Protections at 703-993-4121 if you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in the research.

This research has been reviewed according to George Mason University procedures governing your participation in this research.

CONSENT

I have read this form and agree that my child may participate in this study. I also agree to participate in this study by completing the survey.

Parent or Legally Authorized Representative

(Print name)

Signature

Date of Signature

PERMISSION TO AUDIOTAPE SESSIONS

The sessions of this study may be video taped in order to ensure that the instructions for the picture prompts are delivered as prescribed for the study. We may also video tape the survey questions at the first and last sessions to make sure that the comments made by your child are accurately reflected in the study.

_____ I agree to video taping of the sessions to ensure research accuracy.

_____ I *do not agree* to video taping of the sessions to ensure research accuracy.

_____ I agree to video taping of the survey portion of the first and last session to ensure research accuracy.

_____ I *do not agree* to video taping of the survey portion of the first and last session to ensure research accuracy.