

Section 2

National Research Council Ethical Approval. Phase 1

INFORMATION LEAFLET

For the participants in the study “Respiriamola Citta”

Dear Parent,

My name is Carla Guerriero. I am a researcher at the UK National School for Public Health, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In collaboration with the team of “Respiriamolacitta”, I have started a study the main objective of which is to understand child perception of the health risk associated with environmental air pollution.

I would be grateful if you would read this information leaflet. If you wish to participate in the study, please complete the attached form. I am going to give you important pieces of information necessary to decide whether you and your child would like to participate in the study, together with 150 other children aged between 7 and 13 years.

Your participation is voluntary. You and your child can leave the study at any time and without any negative consequence for you and your child.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH

Aim of the study

The objective of the study is to understand children’s perception of the health risk associated with environmental air pollution. Another objective of the study is to identify at what age children start to understand numerical values and the correspondence of numerical values with the price of different goods.

Why study air pollution risk perceptions?

Clear communication of the possible health consequences arising from air pollution is fundamental to understanding how the surrounding environment can affect our health without creating alarm or undervaluing the problem. Based on your own and your child’s responses, this study aims to understand how scientists, journalists, policy makers can inform families about the potential health risks arising from environmental pollution.

Why we want to involve you and your child in this study?

Several scientific studies have demonstrated that there is a link between some health outcomes and environmental pollution exposure. Exposure to certain air pollutants, such as carbon monoxide and particulate matters, can cause asthma, bronchitis and coughing. It has also been shown that children, in particular, are most vulnerable to the effects of environmental air pollution. Understanding both parents’ and children’s perceptions of environmental health risks is pivotal to communicating the risks to families and to designing effective pollution control interventions.

How is the study organised?

For the children: Participation in the study will involve a departure from routine class activities. During their visit to the science museum located in Bagnoli (a district of Naples), children will spend a further half an hour with the trained interviewers.

For the study to succeed, it is fundamental that children provide free answers and that their replies are not conditioned. Ideally, children will view the study as an interesting game in which they have decided to participate freely. The questions that we will ask will be very simple, such as which transport system: bus, car or bicycle is the best for the citizens, and which they believe is the best for health of citizens. The questions will be put to children using vignettes that have been shown to be effective in communicating concepts without inducing anxiety.

Questions connected with health risks associated with air pollution will refer to symptoms such as cough, asthma and breathing difficulty which children are likely to have experienced. These health outcomes, which have been associated with environmental pollution, have been selected because children will know them and they will be not anxious or diffident towards them.

In order to guarantee child autonomy in offering responses, the study will be conducted and supervised by team of researchers including a psychologist and a sociologist with long experience working with children.

Your participation in the research will not involve any direct or indirect risk to your child's health. The activities will be conducted within an environment resembling a class game.

For the parents: The parent questionnaire will be posted to your home address using a simple form similar to the one that we will present to your child at the museum Città della Scienza.

The results of the research will be presented at scientific conferences and published in international scientific journals to make them available for other researchers. If you wish, you can contact the researchers in the months following the research in order to learn of the results of the study and how they will be used.

Privacy

The results of the research will be published in such a way that no data can be associated with particular children or their parents. All the pieces of information we collect during the research will be held in a secure location. In order to protect your privacy, all your data, including the name, date of birth, address and other details of your child will be associate with a number rather than with your name. If you wish, you can ask that your information, and that of your child, be erased or modified according to the privacy law regarding personal data.

Why is it important to participate to the study?

The results of this and of similar researches can be a starting point for encouraging policies of environmental improvement and the protection of child health, especially in areas subject to

environmental pollution. You and your child can help make environmental information clearer and more effective for everyone.

Informed Consent Form

Contact for further information

If you have any questions, please contact Carla Guerriero.

e-mail:Guerriero.Carla@googlemail.com, Phone: 3489594488

If you would like to participate in this study, please sign this Informed Consent Document below.

I declare that I have read all the information related to the study. I confirm that I was given the opportunity to ask questions about the study and that I have received satisfactory answers to all of my questions.

I give consent to the participation of my child in this research.

Name of the Parent (in capitals).....

Name of the child participating in the study (In capitals).....

Parent's Signature.....

Date

Declaration by the researcher/person that received the consent

I declare that I have read the information leaflet provided to the Child's parent. To the best of my ability, I have explained the experiment to the parent.

I confirm that the parent had the opportunity to ask questions about the study and that they received appropriate answers and explanations.

I confirm that the parent has not been forced in any way to give their consent to the study and that their consent has been given freely and voluntarily and that they have been informed that their children and themselves can withdraw from the study at any time. A copy of this form and of the information leaflet has been given to the parent to keep.

Name of the researcher/person that received the consent

Signature of researcher/person that received the consent.....

Date

Appendix 3

Table 1. Questions asked in the second Experiment.

Absolute Risk questions		
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
1 in 25	1 in 12	1 in 30
1 in 50	1 in 30	1 in 25
1 in 25	1 in 50	1 in 1000
1 in 100	1 in 1000	1 in 200
1 in 750	1 in 100	1 in 300
Change in Absolute Risk questions		
	Baseline Risk	
	1 in 300	
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
1 in 150	1 in 200	1 in 500
	Baseline Risk	
	1 in 900	
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
1 in 1000	1 in 1200	1 in 500
	Baseline Risk	
	1 in 25	
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
1 in 4	1 in 100	1 in 50
	Baseline Risk	
	1 in 200	
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
1 in 200	1 in 50	1 in 800
	Baseline Risk	
	1 in 100	
Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
1 in 100	1 in 500	1 in 75

Appendix 4

Experiment 1.

Questionnaire testing money related concepts.



RESPIRIAMOLACITTA'

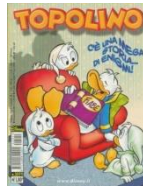
1.1. Order the coins and the banknotes according to an increasing value



1.2. Order the objects according to an increasing price



€ 11



€ 1,70



€ 15



€ 1



€ 6000



€ 150

1.3 Assing the most appropriate price to the objects

1) €600



bucket and spades

2) €50



Iphone

3) €7



Rollerblades

1.4 You have €20 in your pocket. What can you buy with this amount of money?

Price:

1)



€50

2)



€10

3)



€150


1.5 You have €100 in your pocket. What can you buy with these money?

1)  Price €7

2)  Price €300

3)  Price €50


1.6 If you have €7 to buy the milk and the milk costs €2. After you buy the milk how much money have you left?

1) 

2) 

3) 

1.7 If you have €10 to buy 1kg of tomatoes costing €3 and a jar of jam costing €5. How much money have you left after buying the tomatoes and the jam?

1) 

2) 

3) 

Experiment 2

Questionnaire testing use of money among children.