As you already know, the aim of our study is to find out how children learn to relate to other people in the first years of life. At this point in the study, we are interested in how your baby is developing, and how you are settling into a routine with your baby. We hope to learn more about:

- Your health, and any problems you have experienced
- Your feelings now that you’ve had your baby
- Your baby’s temperament and how he or she relates to other people
- What new skills your baby has learnt
- What your baby is interested in and likes to do

At this stage in the study, we would like to arrange a visit to your home during one morning or afternoon, at your convenience. We will ring you to arrange a time that is compatible with your baby’s routines. Two of us will come together to your home. One researcher will interview you to see how things have been going since the baby was born. The other researcher will play a few games with your baby, which we will video. We will also make a brief video of you with your baby.

**Your Current Situation**

At home we would like to interview you about how things have been going since the baby was born. We will be asking you about any changes that have taken place in your life.

**Your Health**

As part of the interview, we will be asking you about your health and any problems you might currently be experiencing. We will also leave a questionnaire for you to fill out at your convenience.

**Your Baby’s Health and Development**

No two babies are alike, and so we are interested to see how the babies in the study develop in their different ways and begin to show their distinct personalities. As part of the interview, we will ask you questions about your baby’s temperament and behaviour. Because infant temperament is affected by genes, we will collect DNA from your baby’s saliva. This will involve using soft cotton swabs to get a sample of saliva from the baby’s mouth. If your baby is already eating solids, it is best to collect saliva before a feed. During our conversation on the phone,
we will arrange the time of the visit so your baby can be fed after we collect the DNA.

We shall ask the babies to play a few games with one of the researchers, to see how active they are, what they like to look at, what skills they have developed so far and what sort of toys they like to play with. We would like to observe you spending time with your baby. We will make a video of the session, which will take about 30 minutes.

**Keeping an Audio Diary**

We recognise that babies may be in a good or bad mood on any given day, and so our visit only gives us a snapshot of your baby’s usual personality. We are particularly interested in how babies learn to deal with their own feelings and the frustrations of everyday life. In particular, we hope to learn more about why some babies cry a lot, and some babies start to show temper tantrums. To get more information about this, we are going to give you a small audio recorder, which you can use to keep an audio diary. If your baby has had a long bout of crying, or temper tantrum, we’d like you to record what happened, and how you (and other members of the family) tried to deal with it. We’d also like to know about your baby’s achievements—when he or she first sits up, crawls, walks and starts to talk. We will give you extra tapes and stamped, addressed envelopes in which to send them back to us at the School of Psychology. We will telephone you in a couple of months to see how you are doing and to see if you need any more tapes.

**The Other People in Your Baby’s Life**

At this stage of the study, we will not be interviewing your baby’s father. However, we are still interested in his viewpoint, and in how he has been since the baby was born. We will be giving you a packet of questionnaires that we would like you to give to him to fill out. We will include a special information sheet for him in that packet. Finally, we would like to get information about the baby’s behaviour from one other person who knows the baby well. This could be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or childminder. We will give you a questionnaire that asks about the baby’s temperament, to pass on to whomever you think is the best person.

If you want any more information, please do not hesitate to contact Professor Dale Hay, School of Psychology, Cardiff University on 02920 876503 or 02920 876191 (CCDSteam@cardiff.ac.uk).

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. We hope that you will continue to help us with this important study.