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 child is developing, and getting along with other children. At this stage in the study, we hope to learn more about:

- Any changes in your circumstances
- Your child’s temperament and how he or she relates to other people
- How your child relates to familiar children

At this point in the study, we would like to arrange a visit to your home during one morning or afternoon, at your convenience. The visit would start with a short interview, when we can catch up, and see how things have been since we saw you last, and ask you to complete a few questionnaires. We’d also like you to invite one of your friends with a child about the same age to visit you at home. We would like to make a DVD of the two children playing together. This will allow us to see how one-year-olds relate to children they know well. If you can’t think of a friend to invite, but a family member has a child about the same age as yours, please invite that family member to visit.

Questionnaires

We would like to ask you about how things have been going in the last year. We will ask you to fill out a few questionnaires about your child’s temperament and behaviour, and your experiences since the last visit. To give you enough time to complete the questionnaires, we will send them to you two weeks before the visit, and pick them up when we visit your home. If you want any help with the questionnaires, we can come an hour early and go through them with you.
Your Friend’s Visit

We’d like you to invite over a friend, another mother whom you know well. It would be helpful if she planned to arrive about an hour after we got there, so that you can finish filling out questionnaires before we get there. We’d like the two of you to pretend that you are getting together, with the children, for lunch or tea, and to behave as any way you naturally would on that sort of occasion. We’d like you to pick a friend whose child is no more than a year older or younger than your own child. It should be a child that your child has played with before, if possible. We will ask your friend to consent to the DVD being made, and we will give you both copies of the DVD, as a memento. We would film the children for 45 minutes. During that time, we’d like you to behave in any way you naturally would when a friend and her child are visiting your home. You do not need to get the children to play any particular games, and it is completely all right if they wish to play on their own, or with you, rather than with each other.

Your Audio Diary

We hope that you have been able to keep up your audio diary. At this age, we are especially interested in how your child handles new situations and challenges, and how he or she relates to other children. We will collect the tapes you have made, and give you extra tapes and addressed envelopes in which to send them back to us at the School of Psychology. If you’ve had any problems with your dictaphone, or have experienced any other problems in keeping the diary, we can sort these out during the interview.

The Other People in Your Child’s Life

Once again, we will be giving you questionnaires that we would like you to give to your partner to fill out. We will include a special information sheet for him in that packet. And, once again, we would like to get information about the child’s behaviour from one other person who knows your child well. This could be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or childminder. We will give you a questionnaire that asks about your child’s temperament and behaviour, to pass on to whomever you think is the most suitable 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.