As your friend may have told you, 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 all the children are developing, and getting along with other children. We’re especially keen to see the children in the study with their ‘first friends,’ familiar children whom they know fairly well.

We’ve asked your friend to invite a mother and toddler to help us with our study. 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 shall make a DVD of the two children playing together. This will allow us to see how one-year-olds relate to other children they know fairly well and we will give you a copy of the DVD, as a memento. We shall film the children for 45 minutes. During that time, we’d like you to behave in any way you naturally would when you and your child are visiting a friend’s 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. Please do whatever you would normally do, when you and your child visit your friend. If your child needs anything, please do whatever you would usually do.

Each one-year-old will be given a bib to wear that says ‘A’ or ‘B.’ Your child’s name will never be used, and so your participation in our study is completely confidential. If anything concerns you, or you would like to know more about our study, please ask the researcher, or contact Professor Dale Hay, by emailing haydf@cardiff.ac.uk, on 02920 876503.

Thank you very much for helping us with this important study of child development.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.