



Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

### **The Participation Study**

We are writing to ask if you would like to participate in a research study currently being conducted within the UK in collaboration with **HemiHelp**.

The study will be carried out by MSc student Victoria Place under the supervision of Dr. Charikleia Sinani - clinical and research expert in children with neurodevelopmental disorders based at Leeds Metropolitan University.

The aim of the project is to gather information about impairment, participation, activity and the psychosocial and emotional domain of children with hemiplegia and ask how conventional therapy, particularly physiotherapy, may influence these. Such information could help to improve therapy for children with hemiplegia.

Information about the Participation Study is given on the attached sheet for you to read. If you are happy to take part, you should fill in your details on the form below and email it back to us. We hope that you will help us with this very important work, but participation is entirely voluntary.

We hope you will find the project interesting and helpful for children with hemiplegia.

**Please return the consent form that follows within 7 days of receipt via email to Victoria Place: [v.place7676@student.leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:v.place7676@student.leedsmet.ac.uk) or Dr. Charikleia Sinani to [c.sinani@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:c.sinani@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Thank you for your help.**

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Place  
MSc Pre-reg. Physiotherapy Student

Dr. Charikleia Sinani  
Senior Lecturer and Clinical Expert

## **The Participation Study**

*What is the Participation Study about?*

- ◆ **The project aims to investigate the effect that conventional therapy, particularly physiotherapy, has on impairment, activity, participation and the psychosocial and emotional domain of a child with hemiplegia.**

Recent research projects suggest that it is not the impairment that may limit a child's ability to participate in activities, rather the emotional and behavioural problems the disorder may cause. In addition the relationship between the level of impairment, participation, activity and the psychosocial domain is not well understood.

Conventional physiotherapy, however, concentrates very much upon improving functional development rather than emotional and behavioural development. This study aims to investigate the effect that conventional therapy particularly physiotherapy has on impairment, activity, participation and the psychosocial and emotional domain of a child with hemiplegia.

### ***Why have we been approached?***

Your child has hemiplegia and you are a member of the charity HemiHelp. We hoped that you would be interested in helping out with the Participation Study.

### ***What is involved?***

If you decide to be involved in the study, you will need to complete the consent form and return it to us in the pre paid, self addressed envelope provided within this pack. You will then be sent a pack containing several short questionnaires regarding your child's ability to participate in everyday life situations and their emotional and behavioural status. All information disclosed will be treated with the strictest confidentiality, stored in a locked cabinet – and destroyed after completion of the project.

### ***What are the possible benefits of taking part?***

We hope to gather information about impairment, activity, participation and the psychosocial and emotional domain of a child with hemiplegia and how conventional therapy, in particular physiotherapy, may influence these. These findings will hopefully help to improve therapy for children with hemiplegia and therefore your inclusion within the project is very important to us. All gathered information will be analysed and all the details will be available to you and, if you also wish, to other professionals (e.g. your child's therapist, teacher).

***What will happen to the information collected in the project?***

Your personal details and your child's details will be kept strictly confidential, and when and if we publish the results there will be no way in which individual children's information can be recognised.

***Who is organising and funding the research?***

This research project is to be carried out as part of of an MSc that Victoria Place is currently working towards at Leeds Metropolitan University.

***Who has reviewed the study?***

The Local Research Ethics Committee of Leeds Metropolitan University (Dr. David Punt) and HemiHelp have reviewed the study.

***What happens if I do not want to take part in the project?***

If you decide not to take part in the study you will not be contacted again. You are also free to change your mind and withdraw from **the Participation Study** at any time.

***What happens if I do want to take part?***

You should sign the consent form, and we shall contact you to arrange a convenient time to enrol you in the project.

If you would like any further information, please contact the supervisor Dr. Charikleia Sinani at the Faculty of Health, Leeds Metropolitan University (telephone number 0113 8129303, mobile 07863103604, email: [C.Sinani@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:C.Sinani@leedsmet.ac.uk)) or the lead researcher Miss Victoria Place email, [v.place7676@student.leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:v.place7676@student.leedsmet.ac.uk) or telephone 07779909252

**Thank you for your help**