Participant Information Sheet

The aim of this research is to discover whether Augmented Reality (AR) phonics flash cards and/or book can contribute to children's early reading skills.

Augmented Reality overlays digital content (audio and 3D models) over the child's physical world. It can be implemented through a headset or mobile device. This research does not require a headset, or any special equipment. It uses a standard tablet or mobile phone.

Flashcards are small physical cards, they are typically two-sided, with a prompt on one side and information about the prompt on the other. These are used for improving memory through practicing information retrieval. These cards may include pictures, vocabulary, and concepts. Phonics flash cards have combinations of letters on one side and pictures on the other. Phonics has been shown to be an effective method in helping children learn to read.

The AR phonics flash cards are supplemented with engaging interactive 3D animations and sounds.

Who can participate?

This research is aimed at parents and children in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 (age 6-11).

What do I need to do?

If you decide to participate in this research, you will be provided with a link to install an app. You will also be provided with AR cards. There is no charge for the app or cards, and you can keep the cards and app after the study.

Before the study you will ask your child to read some words, and mark how well they do. This takes approximately 7 – 10 minutes. It is a variation on the UK Government phonics screener which children usually undertake in KS1.

You will use the app with your child in much the same way as you might read a book with your child. When using the app, animated 3D models, letters and words appear on top of the flash cards and/or book . Audio will also be produced by the device.

You and your child will play with the app for up to six weeks, during this time the app will keep a record of how much you use the app. Ideally you and your child will play with the app and cards regularly but if your child does not like, or want to play with the cards, that is fine.

After the study, as part of the evaluation process, data will be gathered through questionnaires and observations. As the parent of the child, you will complete a User Experience Questionnaire (UEQ+) and children will repeat the reading exercise.

Do I have to participate?
You do not have to participate, and you have the right to withdraw yourself and your child at any time during the study.

How will the results and information be stored?
Data will be collected and stored in line with The Data Protection Act 2018. The results will be kept for no more than 12 months. Hard copies of the assessment scores will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in my office at the University of Greenwich. A digital version will be kept in a password-protected folder. University of Greenwich servers are username and password protected. After the research is complete the records will be destroyed.

Signature of researcher	Date:
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