Participant Information Sheet

*Why Empathy Matters*

My name is Freya Howard and I am conducting this research as a student on the MSc Psychology programme at Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, United Kingdom.

**What is the study about?**

The purpose of this study is to examine the association between a mother’s empathy and child emotional and behavioural development.

**Why have I been approached?**

You have been approached because the study requires information from people who are biological mothers living in Bristol with a child aged 2 to4 years of age.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. It’s completely up to you to decide whether or not you take part. If you change your mind after completing the study, you can withdraw at any point up to the 1st May 2017 by contacting myself at Freya.h.howard@stu.mmu.ac.uk. If you wish to withdraw, please quote your anonymous personal code (see the following page) when you contact me.

**What will I be asked to do if I take part?**

If you decide you would like to take part, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire containing 28-items about empathy and 25-items about your child’s development.

**Will my data be identifiable?**

The information you provide is confidential. The data collected for this study will be stored securely and only the researchers conducting this study will have access to this data:

o Electronic versions of the questionnaire and the computer itself is password protected.

o Your data will be kept securely and anonymised.

o On 1st August 2017, the raw questionnaires will be destroyed, however the data set will be keep for five years in case of future publications.

o If you wish to withdraw your data you can do so at any point up to 1st May 2017 after which I will have commenced my data analysis.

**What will happen to the results?**

The results will be summarised and reported in a dissertation/project report and may be submitted for publication in an academic or professional journal.

**Are there any risks?**

There are no risks anticipated with participating in this study that are beyond those encountered in everyday life. However, if you experience any distress following participation you are encouraged to inform the researcher and contact the resources provided at the end of the study.

**Are there any benefits to taking part?**

Although you may find participating interesting, there are no direct benefits in taking part.

**Who has reviewed the project?**

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Psychology Ethics Panel at Manchester Metropolitan University.

**Where can I obtain further information about the study if I need it?**

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the main researcher:

Freya Howard freya.h.howard@stu.mmu.ac.uk

Supervisor Dr. Gillian McChesney email: g.mcchesney@mmu.ac.uk

If you would like to request a summary of my research findings you can by emailing freya.h.howard@stu.mmu.ac.uk after 1st August 2017.

**Complaints**

If you wish to make a complaint or raise concerns about any aspect of this study and do not want to speak to the researcher, you can contact:

Dr Geoff Bunn (Senior Lecturer, MSc Psychology Programme Leader)

Email: g.bunn@mmu.ac.uk

Department of Psychology │Manchester Metropolitan University │Manchester │M15 6GX

If you wish to speak to someone outside of the Department of Psychology, you may also contact:

Professor Car0l Haigh

Faculty Head of Ethics

Tel: +44 (0)161 247 5914 │Email: c.haigh@mmu.ac.uk

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