IRB Revision Requests for

***"Children's Beliefs on Contagion "***

This is an interesting study which is the main focus of this investigator’s research.

**I appreciate the IRB members’ kind words.**

Recruitment:

- It appears that she may have some challenges with recruiting as stated in the narrative. She does provide 4 resources, perhaps engaging with various local schools can assist in greater recruitment?

**I have updated recruitment to cover the following:**

**Recruitment will take place via email. I will widely disseminate recruitment information, which includes the Children Helping Science, Children’s Learning Lab website, school systems, and Stockton University faculty/staff listserv.**

* 1. **For schools: I will recruit by asking Superintendents of the schools in Galloway Township District, Atlantic City, Pleasantville, Union City, Hoboken and Atlantic County Head Starts (all in NJ) if teachers of the appropriate age classrooms would send the recruitment blurb and information sheet link to parents.**
  2. **I provide two options for testing:** 
     1. **The first is to send out the info link to parents in the ‘online’ version of take-home folders, then parents will set up testing at their homes or place of convenience.**
     2. **The second option is to drop off laptops (loaners from IT) at classrooms and have the teacher set up participants on the laptops to take the study.**

1. **I have attached the downloaded the Qualtrics link to the information sheet and the online consent form. The researcher will email guardians the 2nd information sheet so that they can print and keep for their records.**

Recruitment blurb: compensation should be stated clearly. Write out minutes (m). Perhaps more wording that this is for 4-10 year olds, i.e. "We are seeking 4-10 year olds to participate in a research study..."

1. **Thank you for the suggestion. Below is the new blurb:**

***Who can catch what and how?***

**We are seeking 4- to 10-year-olds to participate in a research study that will examine children’s beliefs about situations which people can catch or transmit a contagious illness (COVID-19, cold) or a non-contagious illness (asthma).**

**Please note that these studies are conducted online, and will need access to a computer, laptop or tablet/iPad with webcam to participate.**

**The study is expected to take approximately 30 minutes to complete and a $10 e-gift card is provided as compensation.**

- Methodology

**As I was assembling all the stimuli, I realized it needed to be divided into two studies. One that was about contamination situations and a second one about whether different types of people were more susceptible to catching or giving an illness. This IRB is specific to what I am now calling Study 1 – which will only contain the contamination situations.**

**Recall there is an adult study and child study, which are identical except for how they are administered. There are now 16 scenarios and each scenario is accompanied by avatars to help aide in memory of the characters for DVs. There are 6 questions per scenario. We are using female characters for female participants and male characters for male participants. Previous research supports that this is helpful to reduce any gender effects on responses on young children.**

**For the adults, everything is on Qualtrics and they answer on their own. I have attached the female version of the study. The male version is identical except with male names. Unfortunately, the pictures didn’t download from Qualtrics, but I have attached the ppts with the pictures.**

**For the children, they will be shown the Qualtrics version, while a research assistant asks the questions to the child.**

- What is the sample size needed for meaningful data outcome?

**I will require 60 for *each* average age group: 4-year-olds, 7-year-olds, 10-year-olds and adults (College Students).**

- Proposal states age as 3-10, recruitment blurb states 4-10.

**My apologies, the correct ages are 4- to 10-years-olds.**

- Please provide full protocol.

**I have attached the downloaded form that is the datasheet for the children and adults. I’ve attached a second document that is the instructions specific for child participants.**

- Parent Survey Questions are general – options for parent to not respond should be included. As it stands now, we do not see the select choices. Please update with actual demographic questions on all domains.

**I have attached the Qualtrics consent form, demographic questions and Perceived Stress Scale -20.**

- Could you ask for month and year instead of birthdate or is birthday needed?

**There are fine developmental distinctions we make at these young ages, and will need birthdate to determine whether children are older/younger within one age (e.g., young or older 4-year-olds). In addition, the birthdate is needed to match to the date we test, since a birthday could fall within the month we test and the child may turn a year older by the time we test them.**

- ICF:

- ICF assures the parent that zoom will be protected with no recording.

**Done.**

- Signature should be at the end of the second page.

**We actually ask for signatures at the end of the first page providing consent. The second page is only an information page and it is for their record, which is stated on the first page.**

***You and your child’s participation are voluntary. Please consider the information carefully on the second page, which will be emailed for your records. Please feel free to email Dr. Helana Girgis, Principal Investigator of this study, at*** [***helana.girgis@stockton.edu***](mailto:helana.girgis@stockton.edu)***. If you permit your child to participate and you agree to complete the online survey, please complete the form. You will be emailed a pdf copy of the ‘Information About Research’.***

- First sentence needs a period.

**Fixed**.

- Replace e.g. with for example.

**Fixed**.

- Replace m with minutes.

**Fixed**.

- State that parents need a computer or something to run zoom. Will zoom training be available, etc.

**My hope is that certain schools will allow us to drop off laptops that the teachers will be able to help set up, but unfortunately, I don’t have the resources or funding to set up in-person or by phone training. When parents fill out the interest form, we will email them with instructions on how to access zoom, similar to instructions provided to students for online classes.**

- Please remove "Thank you so much!"

**A hallmark of being in research is to be explicitly thankful for the time and effort it takes to read through the consent form, regardless of whether parents sign it or not. Given the difficulty in recruiting young children, I am always sincerely and genuinely thankful that parents read through the form to the point that it reads ‘Thank you so much!’ I’m happy to respond more fully to any specific concerns the IRB has in which they consider it an ethical violation.**

- Assent:

- Consider including options for gender and ethnicity.

**We have removed this from the consent form as it is now on interest form, which includes options, as well as a ‘prefer not to answer’.**

- Assent does not provide enough information especially for a 10-year-old.

**Assent is the permission from the child to start the study, which is asked. The study’s instructions are clear and direct, and we ask if the child is ready to start the study before the testing begins. I and each of my trained RAs are well versed in proper, ethical procedures when dealing with children and would not (in any circumstances) continue a study the child says they do not want to continue to do or to persist in asking questions when the child does not answer them or starts to cry, etc. It is explicitly stated in the information section of the IRB. Moreover, it would not make sense to include responses from children who did not want to participate, in that responses would not be valid.**

- Inducement:

- Is the source of funding Stockton for the gift cards? How will they be issued?

**The funding is from Faculty Funds through SOBL. These are Amazon.com or Walmart e-gift cards, which will be email to guardians after the session.**

- Please clarify the participant inducement. Will they get part if they complete part? Only paid if they complete all?

**Guardians get the entire amount regardless of whether the child completes the entire study or not.**

- Debrief:

- Please provide debriefing that includes mental health or economic resources and addresses any misperceptions that may have come up in the game.

- Perhaps include hotline or help for parents if they feel anxiety after completing the survey.

**To be sure, the scenarios now in the study are ones that are typical or atypical for catching or transmitting contagious or noncontagious diseases (rather than pictures of people from different social categories) and the directions are not deceptive.**

**However, I will include a handout of resources (from the CLL website) that I’ll email to parents along with the Information Sheet.**