

INFORMED CONSENT

Project Title:

The Visual Communication and Sign Language (VCSL) Checklist Ongoing Research Project

Principal Investigators:

Drs. Thomas E. Allen, Laurene Simms, Sharon Baker, and M. Diane Clark

Project Description:

In 2014, The NSF Science of Learning Center for Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) published the first edition of the Visual Communication and Sign Language (VCSL) checklist by authors Drs. Laurene Simms, Sharon Baker, and M. Diane Clark. With the publication of the online version of the VCSL in 2015, VL2 has created an online automated database for archiving VCSL data. This data, consisting of de-identified checklist responses and child and family background characteristics, may be used by researchers in the future to study patterns of childhood sign language acquisition in early childhood, to refine the VCSL norms to more accurately measure childhood progress, and to make improvements on the content and format of the VCSL assessments. When the online version of the test is used, parents will be asked if they consent to have their child's ratings stored in this database. Three levels of consent will be offered, as defined below in the Consent paragraph: 1) No consent, 2) Limited consent; and 3) Broad consent.

Confidentiality

For consent levels 2 and 3 above, no identifying information will be retained or released to any author or researcher. Your child's checklist ratings and background data will remain completely confidential.

Risks and benefits

There is minimal to no risk involved with releasing your child's ratings for research and test improvement purposes.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You may decline participation at any time, and also request that your child's information be deleted from the database at any time in the future.

Contact Information

If you want additional information about the VCSL data archive, you may contact Thomas Allen at Thomas.allen@gallaudet.edu. Questions about the VCSL itself may be directed to Laurene.Simms@gallaudet.edu or to vcsl@gallaudet.edu. You may contact the Gallaudet University Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) at 202-651-5400 or irb@gallaudet.edu if you have any questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in this program. This research has been reviewed according to Gallaudet University's procedures governing your participation in this research.

Consent

Please select your level of consent, sign (by typing your name in the shaded area below) and click on submit to give your consent. Level of consent (select one):

- No consent: I do not wish to have my child assessed with the VCSL.
- Consent for assessment only: I consent to have my child assessed using the VCSL, but I do not give consent for my child's VCSL ratings or background information to be stored in any database for future research and test development.
- Limited data sharing consent: I consent to have my child's checklist responses and background information retained, but only released to the test authors, solely for the purpose of making improvements to the VCSL tool. I understand that no identifying information will be retained or shared.
- Broad data sharing consent: I consent to have my child's checklist ratings and background information retained in a data archive at Gallaudet University with the understanding that it may be shared with other researchers in the future (at the discretion of the VL2 Center) for the purposes of increasing basic knowledge about ASL acquisition and creating new assessments. I understand that no identifying information will be retained or shared.

Child's name: FirstOne LastOne

Parent/Guardian name: FirstParentOne LastParentOne

Signature: