

# Duke University

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Dear Parents:

Have you wondered about how your child learns in school? Have you thought about the materials your child studies in school and what he or she learns from these materials? The research we are conducting in our lab at Duke University is investigating what types of materials are best for teaching children.

One of our current studies looks at how testing can affect one's memory. We are looking for first and third grade children who are native speakers of English to participate. In this study, the children are asked general world knowledge questions that are appropriate for first and third grade children.

Our procedure is simple, brief, and entirely safe. First, your child will be given a multiple-choice test. For example, your child might be asked, "What do you call a baby horse?" He or she will answer or be given a choice of several answers. All testing will be verbal (your child does not need to be able to read) and will be tape-recorded. The entire procedure takes at most 30 minutes. Although we cannot provide information about an individual's performance, we will send you a newsletter that will let you know about the results of our research.

We would like to be clear that participation in this study is *not* a school requirement. It will have *no* bearing on your child's grades one way or the other. This research is being conducted by Duke University, not the Durham Public School System--the Durham school system will not even know whether or not your child participates.

The Marsh Memory Lab is in room 213, on the second floor of the Psychology/Sociology Building, which is on the West Campus of Duke University. We will mail you directions if you contact us to schedule an appointment. We will provide you with a temporary parking pass that will allow you to park for free while you visit the lab. Your child will receive a small toy for his/her participation in the study. In addition, you will receive \$5 to reimburse you for your travel to the lab.

If you are interested in allowing your child to participate, you can reach us in one of two ways. If you have a computer with Internet access, please visit our website at <http://psychweb.psych.duke.edu/department/marsh/participate.html> . If you do not have access to the Internet, or if you prefer to discuss this opportunity before submitting your contact information, please simply call us at (919) 660-5797. We will ask for your contact information and try to answer any questions you might have.

If you have any questions about the goal or procedure of our studies, please do not hesitate to call us at 919-660-5797 or email us at [lkf@duke.edu](mailto:lkf@duke.edu). Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Marsh, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor

<http://psychweb.psych.duke.edu/department/marsh/>