

All About Me: Neurodivergent Children's Perspectives of Identity**Research team contacts**

Principal Researcher: Helen McLennan, PhD Candidate
Associate Researchers: Beth Saggars, Principal Supervisor
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What is the purpose of the research?

The purpose of this research is to investigate young neurodivergent children's perspectives of identity – that is, how do young neurodivergent children see themselves as a person? What are their strengths, interests, and goals for the future?

Are you looking for people like my child?

The research team is inviting young neurodivergent children (aged between 4 and 8 years old) and their parent/carer to participate in this study. Being neurodivergent means having a cognitive style that varies from society-defined 'typical' minds, and might include being autistic, dyslexic, Tourette's syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), among other variations including those not necessarily indicative of disability. A child does not have to have a diagnosis to take part in this research.

What will you ask me and my child to do?

Your participation (as legal guardian) will involve an initial interview with the lead researcher (Helen) to provide some background information about your child.

Your child's participation, with you present, will involve two visits from Helen, during which your child will be invited to share aspects of their identity with Helen through methods that feel comfortable for them. This might include speaking about their identity, drawing a picture of themselves, taking photos, or finding pictures online using the researcher's computer. Your child may use assistive communication methods to participate. Your child will then have opportunity to make a digital story book titled: "All About Me". Helen, and you (the parent/carer) can help your child make this book. The finished book can then be shared with your child's key people in their life (if your child agrees). For example, the book can be shared with their teachers, which is particularly helpful if your child is starting a new school year.

Are there any risks for my child in taking part?

- To reduce any inconvenience associated with the amount of time to take part in this study, the research team aim to keep participation to one parent/carer interview, in addition to two visits with your child, approximately 30 – 45mins in length per visit (unless additional time is requested by you and your child).
- To reduce possible discomfort or distress participating in something new, strategies such as providing an introductory video and a 'what-will-happen' story will be implemented to help prepare your child for the research activities.
- To limit possible discomfort for your child, the topic of neurodivergence will only be raised or discussed with them if they raise it themselves, or if you (their parent/carer) feel confident this is a topic your child will feel comfortable talking about with the researcher.

You and your child can withdraw from participation in the research project at any time, without comment or penalty.

Are there any benefits for my child in taking part?

It is expected that this research project will benefit your child directly because they will have opportunity to create a story book about themselves, that can then be shared with key people in their life (if they choose to do so).

Will we be compensated for our time?

No, but we would very much appreciate you and your child's participation in this research.

I am interested in my child taking part – what should I do next?

If you are interested in your child participating in this study, please contact:

Helen McLennan

helen.mclennan@hdr.qut.edu.au

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You will be provided with further information to ensure that your (and your child's) decision and consent to participate is fully informed.

Thank You!

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 6930