TADA PROJECT

Training and Detecting Attention Difficulties in Children with ADHD

In Australia, approximately one in 20 children are diagnosed with ADHD. Characterised by symptoms of inattention, impulsivity and hyperactivity, ADHD can persist into adulthood and continue to disrupt everyday functioning. However, with efficient early detection and treatment methods, these symptoms can be effectively managed to give children with ADHD a better future. You can help us achieve this.

The Project

At the Monash School of Psychological Sciences, caring for our community is central to all that we do.

Through the Tada Project, we are hoping to verify the use of a world-first touchscreen attention screening tool, Tali Detect, and a 5-week intensive attention training program, Tali Train, for children with ADHD or high levels of inattentive and hyperactive symptoms.

These tools aim to revolutionise childhood attention assessment and training by using fun game-based exercises to understand and improve a child's attentional strengths and weaknesses.

To do this, we need to be able: (1) to verify the validity of the screening tool, Tali Detect, and (2) to evaluate and optimise the efficacy of an attention training tool, Tali Train, in children with ADHD. For this, we respectfully request your help.

Your Invitation to Take Part —And Why it's Worth it

If you are the parent, guardian, or carer of a child aged 5-7 years with a confirmed diagnosis of ADHD or high levels of inattentive and hyperactive symptoms, we would like to invite you and your child to take part in the Tada Project.

The study will take 5 weeks to complete, which includes either a screening call or email to determine eligibility and attending initial and follow-up assessments. Each assessment session will take between 1-2 hours duration and involves you completing a questionnaire, and your child completing some computerised and paper-based tasks.

These tasks will include the new game-based tool (Tali Detect), an existing attention assessment tool, and a cognitive test. Most children will find the tasks interesting and enjoyable. We do not anticipate any risks associated with taking part in this study. The research assessment will take place at Monash University or a location that best suits you. Upon completion of the first assessment, you will be provided with a tablet with the Tali Train program, to complete with your child over the next 5 weeks, before you return for a follow-up assessment.

All information you provide is protected and you will have access to our expert researchers at all times to answer any questions.

The project findings will allow our researchers to further develop the innovative assessment tool and training program to help us support early childhood attention development.

This project will help us to assess whether the novel attention screening tool — Tali Detect — is valid, and to investigate the efficacy of using the Tali Train program in children with ADHD or high levels of inattentive and hyperactive symptoms.

If Tali Detect is shown to be valid, it offers the potential to transform the way childhood attention difficulties are assessed. If Tali Train is shown to be effective, then it provides a novel early intervention for improving inattention, and may help to minimise the long-term impacts that attention problems can have in the developing child.

You and your child will be given free access to the Tali Train program for the duration of the study.

At the end of the project you will receive a report on the overall project outcomes. In addition, we are happy to provide an individual research report on your child's performance on the project activities. Your child will also receive a movie voucher as a thank you for participating in the study.

The Tada Project is internally-funded by the Monash University School of Psychological Sciences.

The Next Steps

This project brings together experts in game development, software engineering, and neuroscience. Monash University has partnered with Torus Games and Tali Health to ensure that Tali Detect and Tali Train are engaging and professional, as well as valid and effective.

If you would like to participate, please email **med-tada@monash.edu** to be involved.