

## Research priorities for learning difficulties



### **Information Sheet for children and young people with learning difficulties**

#### **What is The Salvesen Mindroom Centre?**

The Salvesen Mindroom Centre, formerly known as Mindroom, is a Scottish charity that combines research, education and outreach support for families living with learning difficulties. The charity works in collaboration with The University of Edinburgh on research into learning difficulties.

For this project, the charity and university are also getting help from the James Lind Alliance.

#### **What is the Research Priorities for Learning Difficulties Project?**

The Salvesen Mindroom Centre and the University of Edinburgh want to find out your views about research into learning difficulties and what is important to you. This will help work out what are the most important areas to carry out research into.

As part of the project we'd like you to fill in a survey if you are a child or young person who has learning difficulties.

There is also a survey for other people to fill in. These people are

- adults who had learning difficulties as a child
- your parents and/or carers
- people who work with you such as teachers, speech and language therapists, and doctors

We want to find out their views too.

#### **What will the survey ask?**

The survey will ask you what you'd like to know more about, and what questions you'd like answered, to do with your learning difficulties. Such as

- what might be the cause?

## Research priorities for learning difficulties



- what makes learning hard?
- what is difficult at home and school?
- what might make things easier for you?

It's up to you what you want to ask. Your questions will help us to decide what research The Salvesen Mindroom Centre should be doing.

The survey will also ask some information about you such as your age etc. It is up to you whether you want to answer these questions.

### **What do you mean by learning difficulty?**

There are lots of different types of learning difficulties. On a day-to-day basis that can mean many things, including struggling with

- reading, writing or numeracy
- listening, talking and understanding
- staying focused on my work
- remembering what I have just learnt or been told
- controlling my actions and not being impulsive
- mixing with other people and making friends
- feeling good about myself and my abilities

You might have a diagnosis such as

- dyspraxia
- dyslexia
- dyscalculia
- dysgraphia
- autism spectrum disorder(ASD)
- Down's syndrome
- attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- fragile X syndrome
- speech and language difficulties
- foetal alcohol syndrome
- Tourette's syndrome

Your diagnosis may also have another name or be explained in another way.



## Research priorities for learning difficulties

### What do I do?

If you want to take part, go online to fill in the survey at the address below or fill in a paper survey form. You might want to talk to an adult you know well about your ideas. They might help you fill in the survey.

### What happens next?

From all of the survey responses we are aiming to end up with a top ten list of research priorities. When we receive the survey responses, we will sort through them and produce a list of the most common questions and themes.

We will then ask people to comment on this long list of questions in a second survey. It is up to you whether you would like to take part in the second survey. You can tell us on the first survey if you are happy that we contact you again.

After we have gathered the information from the second survey, we will invite some people to a workshop to help work out what the most important ten questions are. Once we have the list of top ten questions/research priorities we will tell everyone who took part in our survey and said we could contact them.

### Further information

If you have any questions, please contact

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## The Process

