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Dear members of the project *Language Development of Russian-speaking Children*:

The authors of the project, Elena Denisova-Schmidt, Irina Dubinina, and Sophia Malamud would like to, first of all, thank you for your participation in the research, and for your patience and consistency! Secondly, we want to share some news about the project. Finally, we invite you to continue your participation in our research.

We are working hard on transcribing the speech samples taken from your kids. This slow and very labor-intensive process necessitates up to ten hours of transcribing per one hour of audio-recorded material, which is why we have not yet finished working on the entire batch. In a parallel effort, we have started linguistic annotation of the text in order to compile a pilot module of the corpus of child speech, which is a kind of database containing recordings of children's speech with transcription and annotation. Such a corpus is invaluable for scientific research of language development of Russian-speaking children. From the start, the idea behind this corpus has been to track the long-term language development of your child. This project is intended to last for many years, hopefully until the children reach the age of fifteen or sixteen. We truly hope that you will continue working with us in the future.

If you are interested in continuing with the project:

1. Please sign the consent form on the last page of this document, confirming your continuing voluntary participation in the research and agreeing to the use of recorded audio-materials and transcripts for research and in future publications. Please forward a scanned copy of the signed consent form to any of us. As a reminder, the corpus will not contain any personal information: the names of the participants, street and city names, and other identifying information will be expunged.
2. Start recording your child weekly in 20 to 30 minute increments (this is a minimal session length; the recordings can be longer) for the next 4 months. After that, you may take a break until next year.

Please take into account the following recommendations for recording:

- You can make a recording of the time you spend playing with the kids or during any meal that you eat together as a family. You can also record your child playing with other kids, provided these children and their parents agree.
- Please try to have your TV and radio off for the time of the recording. This sound should be avoided as background noise since it makes the transcribers' work much more difficult. It can also hinder a complete linguistic analysis of the recorded material.
- Please do not introduce toys that constantly play music, talk, or emit other noises, for the same reasons as above. (It is okay if a toy emits a sound a couple of times during the recording)
- You should save every recording on your computer. Please use the following format for the file names: Child's name followed by the date of the recording (day, month, year).

We would prefer that you use DropBox to keep the files, if this way of file-keeping is not too inconvenient for you. Please let us know if you are not using this method and send us your e-mail address. We will create a virtual folder for you in DropBox. You will shortly receive an invitation from DropBox asking you to create a free account in order to use the folder. All the files will be kept in a virtual repository and on your computer. This system will enable us to transfer files into other folders and you won't have to worry about sending large files via e-mail.

YOUR RIGHTS: Participation in this project is **voluntary**. You can discontinue your participation at any time and for any reason. You also have the right to ask questions about the goals and the process of the research. Our contact information is indicated below.

COMPENSATION: As a token of gratitude for your participation, we are giving you the high quality audio recorders. You may also keep every copy of your child's recordings for your family archive.

With respect and gratitude,

E.V. Denisova-Schmidt, I.E. Dubinina, S.A. Malamud

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Consent form for participation in the project:

I agree to participate in the research and do hereby give my permission to publication and use of the corpus containing audio recordings of my child's speech, as well as transcripts and linguistic annotation of the said recordings. **All personally identifying information including names, addresses, and so on, will be expunged from the audio recordings and transcripts prior to publication of the corpus with its subsequent analysis.**

Signature

Date

Last Name, First Name, Patronimic