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The effects of family size and birth order on an individual's g level

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

COVER LETTER
(DISTRIBUTED IN KINGSMEAD COLLEGE)



School of Human and Community Development
Private Bag 3, Wits 2050, Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel: (011) 622-8568 / 084-266-0441
Email: astiglic@khulisa.com

Dear Parent / Guardian,

My name is Ana Stiglic, and I am conducting research towards a Master's degree in Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand. My research focuses on family size and birth order and abstract reasoning ability. **Your child's / children's participation in my research study would be greatly appreciated.**

I'm searching for families of **only daughters** that form part of a family of no more than three daughters. The families have

Participation in this study requires **all daughters of a family** to complete a fun 45 minutes non-verbal test that will occur on school grounds and after school hours at a time convenient for you and your daughter/daughters. Participation is voluntary and the participants will not be advantaged or disadvantaged because of their participation in the research study.

If you are interested in having your daughters participate in this research study and if you meet criteria listed above, please complete and sign the attached Consent Form and Family Background Questionnaire. Each participant will be assigned with a specific identification number by Mrs. Blanckenberg thereby concealing their identities from myself, the researcher. **Please have your child drop it off in a sealed box posted outside the headmistress's secretary's office**.

General results of the study will be reported in a letter and distributed to a daughter in your family by Ms. Blanckenberg.

If you would like to find out more information regarding any aspect of the research study, please so contact me. Contact information is provided at the top right corner of this page.

Thank you kindly, Ana Stiglic.

APPENDIX B

COVER LETTER
(DISTRIBUTED AT ROEDEAN SCHOOLS)



Researcher: Ana Stiglic
School of Human & Community Development
Private Bag 3, Wits 2050, JHB, South Africa
Tel: (011) 622-8568 / 084-266-0441
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Supervisor: Dr Andrew Thatcher
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Tel: +27 11 717 4533
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Email: thatchera@umthombo.wits.ac.za

Dear Parent / Guardian,

My name is Ana Stiglic, and I am conducting a research study towards my Master's degree in Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand. My research focuses on family size, birth order and abstract reasoning ability. **Your child's / children's participation in my research study would be anonymous, greatly appreciated, and hopefully make a significant contribution to psychological research in this area. I would require only 45 minutes of their time.**

I'm searching for families:

- With **daughters only;**
- With **no more than three daughters**;
- Where **both parents have lived with their children since their birth.**

Participation in this study requires **all daughters of a family** to complete a fun 45 minutes non-verbal test that will occur on school grounds and after school hours on a day convenient for you and your daughter/daughters. Participation is voluntary. Participants will not be advantaged or disadvantaged because of their participation in my research study. The results of the testing will be completely confidential and anonymous.

If you are interested in having your daughters participate in my study, and if you meet criteria listed above, please **complete and sign the attached Consent Form and Family Background Questionnaire**. **These forms must be returned to a box posted outside of the headmistress's secretary's office before (insert date).**

Although each girls' individual results will not be identifiable or available, general results of the study will be reported in a letter and distributed to a daughter in your family by myself.

If you would like to find out more information regarding any aspect of the research study, please contact me through contact information provided in the top right hand corner of this page.

Thank you kindly, Ana Stiglic.

APPENDIX C

SYNOPSIS OF COVER LETTER (DISTRIBUTED AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL)

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

Participation in a Research Study needed!

A Wits MA student needs participation of learners that come from either an only one girl, two girl or three girl families (no boy children within these families) that have lived with their parents since birth. This is an abstract reasoning ability study in relation to family size and birth order and requires all girls of a family to complete a fun 45 mins non-verbal test. Testing will be conducted on school grounds at a time convenient to the participating families. Please contact either Ana (084 266 0441) or Andrew Thatcher, my supervisor at Wits (011 717 4533), for further details or speak directly with Helen or Lynn Moony.

APPENDIX D

CONSENT FORM & FAMILY BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

CONSENT FORM

PARENTAL CONSENT

Please complete this Consent Form and the attached Family Background Questionnaire and have a daughter return it to the headmistress's secretary's office.

I, _____, consent to my child's / children's participation in this study as specified in the Cover Letter attached to this Consent Form. I understand that I will be notified of the testing times and I will arrange for all my daughters to attend a session convenient to me.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Telephone number: _____
Cellular number: _____

FAMILY BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

Information of the Guardians:

Your name and surname:	
Are you the mother or father:	
Your occupation:	
Your spouse's occupation:	

Please answer with a tick as either "Yes" or "No":

	YES	*NO*
Are you the biological parent of **ALL** the children?		
Is your spouse the other biological parent of **ALL** the children?		
Are **ALL** the children female?		
Have you and your spouse been married since the birth of your first / only child?		
Has any member of your family lived apart from the family for an extended period of time (an extended period of time is longer than 2 years)?		
Has any member of your extended family lived with your family for an extended period of time (an extended family member is a grandmother, uncle, etc)?		
How many daughters in your family? (Please answer with a number)		

Please indicate how far away your family lives from the school by ticking one of the following options:

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION	**TICK APPROPRIATE OPTION**
< 5 km of school	
> 5 km but < 10 km from school	
> 10 km but < 15 km from school	
15 km and more from school	

Please complete a box for each daughter.

I.e.: If you have 2 daughters, only complete boxes labeled 'Information of Daughter 1' and 'Information of Daughter 2'.

Information of Daughter 1

Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
School: _____

Information of Daughter 2

Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
School: _____

Information of Daughter 3

Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
School: _____

APPENDIX E

ASSENT FORM

ASSENT FORM

I, _____, agree to take part in a research study on the effects of family size and birth order on an individual's general ability of intelligence, which involves completing a test and a brief questionnaire.

I understand that:

- My participation in this research study involves completing a test lasting not more than 45 minutes and a brief family questionnaire.
- My participation is voluntary and will not advantage or disadvantage me in any way.
- I may leave at any time during testing, if I so feel like it.
- No identifying personal information will be included in the researcher's report.
- I will only take part in the testing procedure once I have completed this form.

Signed: _____

School Attending: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX F

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FORM

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Your name: _____

Date of Testing: _____

Place of Testing: _____

Please indicate whether your family OWNs or RENTs the following appliances by ticking the appropriate box:

APPLIANCE	OWN	RENT / PAY AS YOU GO
Television		
Refrigerator		
Music System / Hi – Fi		
Satellite television – DSTV		
DVD Player		
Internet		
Home Security System		

Please indicate <u>how many</u> of the following you have in your household?

ITEM	HOW MANY DOES YOUR FAMILY OWN?
Cellular phones	
Desktop Computers	
Laptop Computers	
Motor vehicles	

Please indicate which of the following house staff your family has:

HOUSEHOLD STAFF	HOW MANY DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE?
Domestic Worker	
Gardener	
Driver	

Many thanks!
Ana

APPENDIX G

RESEARCH STUDY RESULTS
(FEEDBACK FORM DISTRIBUTED TO PARENTS)



UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

Researcher: Ana Stiglic
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Supervisor: Dr Andrew Thatcher
Discipline of Psychology,
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University of the Witwatersrand, WITS
Tel: +27 11 717 4533
Fax: +27 11 717 4559
Email: thatchera@umthombo.wits.ac.za

Dear Parent,

A very **big thank you to you and your daughter/s for participating in my research study**. Your efforts and willingness to contribute are greatly appreciated! This letter serves to notify you of the results which emerged from this study.

A total of 37 families and 73 daughters took part in this study. The average age for the participant group was 10 years, 9 months where the ages ranged from 5 years, four months to 17 years, 7 months. Several schools were represented in this sample: Kingsmead, Laerskool Jan Cilliers, Redham House, Roedean, St. Mary's, St. Stithians, St. Katharine's, St. Teresa's, Holy Rosary and Leicester Road. The families were of middle to upper class socioeconomic status and the majority of the participants came from well educated families.

The research study was focused on determining whether there were any differences in mental integrating ability in children born in different birth orders (i.e. first, second or third born) and different family sizes (i.e. one, two or three daughter families). No significant birth order effects emerged, meaning that being born first, second or third was inconsequential with respect to having more or less of the mental integrating ability.

Similarly, being born in a small or large family did not have a significant impact on this ability: scores were statistically similar between children born in different family sizes. The exception to this finding was that the second born daughters from two girl families outperformed the second born daughters from three girl families. This finding holds implications in the understanding of influences acting on small or large families in terms of the general integrating mental ability.

The generated results reflect the trends of the sample as a whole; no individual, within family analyses were conducted. If you would like further information regarding these results or of those pertaining to your family or any aspect of the study, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you again for participating!
Ana Stiglic.