**UQ Winter Research Project Description**

Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.

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| **Project title:** | **Children’s understanding of possibilities and impossibilities** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | The project will run for 4 weeks (30 June to 25 July), with one position offered. The successful applicant will be required to be available at UQ’s St Lucia campus throughout the project. The project will involve approximately 20-30 hours of engagement per week. |
| **Description:** | Previous research has established that children are adept at distinguishing between outcomes with high and low probabilities. However, it is less clear whether young children have explicit concepts of “possibility” and “impossibility” to guide their choices. In this study, 3- and 4-year-old children will be introduced to gumball machines that can produce either desirable or undesirable outcomes. In different machines, these outcomes will be either guaranteed, impossible, or merely possible. We are interested in whether children consistently choose to operate gumball machines that are more likely to produce desirable outcomes. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | The student researcher will gain experience in the process of study design and interpretation. They will also participate in data collection from caregivers and children who visit the Queensland Museum or Early Cognitive Development Centre during the winter school holidays. |
| **Suitable for:** | The project is open to applications from students who have completed at least 1.5 years of their undergraduate psychology degree. Applicants must have a strong background in developmental and cognitive psychology, as well as an interest in children’s emerging conceptual understanding. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Jonathan Redshaw |
| **Further info:** | The applicant must have a current Blue Card or be in the process of obtaining one. Please email Jonathan Redshaw ([j.redshaw@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.redshaw@uq.edu.au)) before applying. |