4. Running a Study at CMOM

You will run your study according to the script for that individual project. If you have any questions about specific procedures for a study, ask the supervisor. Throughout the study, take notes on anything that you think might influence the results (e.g., the child was overly distracted, the parent interfered, etc.). It would be helpful to write down these notes on the actual data sheet (so we can see where it happened) as well as make a more general note in the coding sheet at the end of the study.

The steps:

1. Before you begin, **make sure that the parent has all of his/her questions answered.** Make sure the child knows your name (if old enough) and is comfortable with you.
   
   a. If the child is shy, make sure the parent is close by (sitting right with the child may be fine for the majority of studies).
   
   b. If necessary, bring out another toy or introductory book to get the child comfortable with the environment before testing begins.
   
   c. Let the child know that “there are no right or wrong answers, I am just interested in what you think”.

2. Check off the next subject ID before you start running the study, write it on the data sheet, and then speak the subject ID into the camera once you start recording and before you begin the study.

3. Make sure you are speaking clearly, and that the child understands the instructions you are providing them. If the child looks puzzled, offer to repeat the question.

4. **If anything goes wrong with your stimuli, continue through the end of the study.** Whether or not we can use the data, the parent and child should enjoy their experience.

   a. If your error was obvious, be honest about the situation. Correct it if you can and run the subject as normal (whether or not you can use the data at this point).

   b. See “When things go wrong” and “Q&A” sections for more details.

5. If there is a free play portion to the study, and you step away from interacting with the child, remind the parent about what’s going on (e.g. “We’re going to let him play by himself for a minute and then ask a few more questions”). Otherwise parents may get confused and think the study is over.