



ELF Study Newsletter

JUNE 2021

ELF CLINICS UP AND RUNNING!

After the challenges of 2020, and a year's delay to our second round of clinics, we are all go!! ELF Study clinics commenced in April this year at Federation Uni in Churchill. We are thrilled with the response from families so far, but of course hope to see as many enrolled ELFlings as possible this time round!

To the right are some pictures of our willing participants having ultrasound of their big blood vessels and some breathing tests. Families are also offered a blood test which will test for allergies to some common household things like dust mite, grass, and pet hair. If requested, results of that testing will be shared with parents and the family GP.

Clinic visits take about an hour and half. We have appointment times available every Wed, Thurs and Fri afternoon from 1pm till 5pm, and then all day Saturdays and Sundays. We will also be offering daily appointments during the July school holidays!

To say thank you! - every family attending clinic receives a \$30 Coles voucher and goes in the draw for one of five \$200 vouchers.



What is it like to visit the clinics?

You can watch a video that explains each of the tests to kids!

<https://youtu.be/evgyK7snjc8>



HOW WAS THE CLINIC VISIT?

"I had explained on the morning of the appointment what was going to happen thinking she might be a little nervous, but she was so excited to go. I found everyone to be very friendly and welcoming, and the explanations of the procedures and patience shown with Izabelle was wonderful. Izabelle enjoyed herself immensely and had a great time, she took all of her test equipment to school for show and share to tell her class all about it. Her favourite parts were the gooey gel on her neck and arm patches, and the 'snippy crab' (nose clip)."

- Mother of Izabelle aged 5

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“My child did these tests in 2017. Is it necessary to come back again?”

Even if your child attended an appointment at the last clinic in 2017, it is still important to visit the clinic again. This may help us to further support information we have already gathered about possible impacts of the 2014 mine fire, on exposed infants and the unborn. To best do this, we aim to look at blood vessel and lung development over a period of several years, to investigate possible changes as children grow.

“We didn’t take part at the last clinics in 2017. Can we come this time?”

YES! It is still valuable to do assessments on children who haven’t been measured before, to see if there are any differences between blood vessel and lung development in children who were and who were not exposed to the mine fire.

“Does my child have to do every test?”

The more measurements we can perform on your child the more information we have, but every bit of information is another piece of the puzzle, so it is great to get something rather than nothing. Some parents opt for their child not to have the blood test, which is perfectly OK!

“Are you taking extra precautions because of COVID-19?”

YES we are. The day before your appointment you are contacted by one of our team members and taken through a screening questionnaire, aimed to prevent anyone at higher risk from attending the clinic. The same questions are repeated as families arrive at their clinic appointment. All study participants and clinic staff are temperature-checked on arrival.

Staff go through a special cleaning routine of all equipment and frequently touched surfaces between participants. Social distancing is practised wherever it is possible to do so.

“How do I book, or who do I contact if I have more questions?”

Ring us on 1800 322 102, or email us at Latrobe.elf@utas.edu.au

**A huge thank you from the ELF Study Team
to all the families who visited so far!**

HOW WAS THE CLINIC VISIT?



"I'm grateful to have the opportunity for Oliver to participate in the clinic, it gives me peace of mind regarding his ongoing health status whilst building his confidence in dealing with real life experiences."

Mother of Oliver aged 8

"I would like to thank the members of the study who performed the tests as they kept my son calm throughout the whole session. I would also like to thank Jordan for talking to and interacting with my other son who sat in the waiting area while all the tests were happening."

Mother of Peter aged 7



"The staff were very friendly & professional. With lots of praise, encouragement & rewards Bryce felt fairly comfortable with the tests conducted in him."

Mother of Bryce aged 8