Improving memory will benefit kids

By NATHAN SIMPSON

A successful children’s computer program developed by researchers at the University of Wollongong has attracted the interest of a major Australian company.

The software program - shown to benefit children’s cognitive skills and behaviour - has now been licensed to an Australian company.

The novel training system, developed by Dr Stuart Johnstone and Associate Professor Steven Roodenrys at UOW’s School of Psychology, has been licensed to an Australian-based neurocognition software company for commercialisation.

The system comprises software that helps children improve their attention, memory and impulse control skills and is used in conjunction with a NeuroSky Mindset (worn by children).

UOW Innovation and Commercialisation manager Dr Gavin Dixon said the program was geared towards children and benefitted those with ADHD.

“A UOW-run pilot study has shown the training method to be beneficial in altering the behaviour of children with ADHD,” he said.

Dr Stuart Johnstone conducts a study to improve attention and memory in children with his daughter Emma Johnstone.

Picture: MELANIE RUSSELL

The UOW team is seeking more children, aged between seven and 14, to take part in an extension of the research study.

Children volunteering for the study will be involved in playing two games - one is focused on controlling impulses and the other is a memory game.

Parents wishing to include their child in the project should call Dr Stuart Johnstone on 4221 4495.