

WORD Research Project

Information for Parents/Carers



We are researchers from UCL and The Institute of Education, and we want to invite your child to take part in a research study. Our study is called the WORD project and is about children with word-finding difficulties. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

What are word-finding difficulties?

We all have problems sometimes finding the words we want to say. We often describe this experience as having the word 'on the tip of our tongue'. We know what we want to say, but we can't seem to find the word we need.



Children who have difficulties learning to use and understand language often have big problems finding the words they want to say. This can make it hard for them to make friends, or to tell people what they need or how they feel. It can affect how they feel about themselves, and how well they do at school.



We want to understand more about the difficulties these children experience, and what helps them. We hope that our research will mean these children will get the right kind of help with their word-finding problems.

How can you help us?

As well as looking at children who have word-finding problems, we need to see children who don't have any difficulties with their language. It is easier to help children with problems when we understand what typically developing children do.

By taking part in this project, you and your child will be helping us to understand how to help children who have word-finding problems.

In order to take part your child should:

- be 4-8 years old
- have no identified difficulties, e.g. autism



What will the study involve?

If you agree for your child to take part, a researcher will see them at school. She will talk to your child's teacher to arrange a suitable time for your child to come out of class. She will see each child individually for 4 or 5 sessions of about 30 minutes each. This will take place over a couple of days.

The researcher will carry out a number of different activities with your child, including asking him/her to name simple pictures, or to read or repeat some words. For some assessments the researcher will audio-record your child, so that we can check their responses after the session.



When will it happen?

Over the next few months, after we receive parental permission.

How safe is it?

All research projects with children are reviewed by an ethics committee to make sure they are safe and fair. This project has been approved by ethics committees at UCL and The Institute of Education.

We hope that your child will enjoy taking part in our research! We only include children if they are happy to join the researcher and take part in the activities. Your child does not have to take part in this study if you don't want them to, and even if you and your child agree to take part, you can withdraw at any time without having to give a reason.

All information about your child will be kept confidential. We will never use any details in our reports that could identify your child, their school or your family.



All of our researchers are police-checked and have experience working with children.

What to do now:

If you agree for your child to take part, please fill in the consent slip and return it to your child's teacher.

If you have any questions about this study, or would like further information, please get in touch with us.



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You can also find information about the study at www.sites.google.com/site/wfdresearch/home

We look forward to hearing from you.



WORD Research Project: Consent slip


Name of child _____ Child's date of birth _____

Name of parent/carer _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- I have received information about this project.
- I am aware that my child's responses will be audio-recorded and that recordings will be stored securely until the end of the project when they will be destroyed (December 2014).
- I understand that my child's data will remain confidential in the reporting of the study.
- I understand that my child is able to withdraw from this research at any time.
- I am willing for my child to take part.

 Signed _____ Date _____

Please give this slip to your child's class teacher. Thank you very much!