

Participant Information Sheet

Sharing books with children

Thank you for your interest in our research study. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

What is the project about?

We know that reading with your child helps them learn to talk, and it helps them do well in school. But we don't know why reading with your child is so good for language and early literacy development. We are also interested in the different ways that parents read books with their children. In this project we want to find out how different ways of reading with children helps them learn to talk, and get ready to read and write themselves.

Can I take part with my child?

You can take part if your child:

- is between 3½ and 4½ years old
- hears mainly English at home (for at least 6 out of 7 days in a typical week)
- has no known neurological diagnosis
- has no permanent difficulties with hearing, and has normal vision (with glasses if necessary)
- was born at or after 37 weeks of pregnancy and weighed more than 5lb 9oz

What will happen if I take part with my child?

The project will last for 7 weeks and will involve two or three visits to your home by one of our researchers, one (or two) at the start of the project and one six weeks later. Visits are likely to last about an hour each. In these visits we will assess your child's speech and language in short activities with games and pictures. We will ask you some questions about your family and home life, and story book reading in your home. If you don't want to answer any of the questions, you don't have to. If your child meets our criteria and you agree to take part, you will be given one of two training sessions, looking at different ways of making the most of reading. Which group you are in is decided by computerised random allocation.

Whichever group you are in, between the beginning and end visits we will ask you to read to your child at home, five times a week. We will lend you story books, explain what we want you to do, and ask you to keep a diary of the books you read to your child. We will also ask you to use one of our voice-recorders to record you and your child reading.

What happens now?

In the next few days we will get in touch to find out if you want to take part. If you do, we will plan your first visit. At this visit, we will talk about what the study involves and what your rights are. Then if you are still happy to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form and welcome you to the project.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is completely up to you. And, if you agree to take part but change your mind later, you are free to leave the study at any time, just let us know. In that case we will not use your information.

Are there any risks or benefits involved in taking part?

There are no anticipated risks to taking part. We will lend you a set of books to read together. At the end of the study we will give you a £10 voucher and your child a small gift to thank you for your time.

What will happen to the information you collect?

All our information will be labelled with a code number, your names will not appear on any assessment sheets or audio recordings. Information will be kept in locked filing cabinets or on password-protected computer storage for five years as this is good research practice. If (and only if) you agree, audio recordings will be kept in a permanent archive so that other language researchers can make use of them.

We hope 180 people will take part in this study and we will use the results from everyone to give parents, nurseries, teachers and other researchers information to help children's language development through reading.

It is very important to us that you are happy with this. We can reassure you that we will never reveal your, or your child's, name in any of our work, and that all information will be stored securely.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns or want to complain, you should contact the researcher *Daphne Barker* in the first instance (contact details below).

If there are any worries about this research that you would prefer not to discuss with the research team, please contact the Research Governance and Integrity Team by either writing to 'The Research Governance and Integrity Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL', by emailing: Research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk, or by telephoning 0161 275 8093 or 275 2674.

Other information

The Economic and Social Science Research Council has funded the research.

The University of Manchester University Research Ethics Committee has approved the study.

Who can I contact for further information?

Dr. Anne Hesketh (Chief Investigator)
Email: anne.hesketh@manchester.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 275 3375 or 07955 365141

Dr. Daphne Barker (Research Associate)
Email: Daphne.Barker@manchester.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 275 3458 / 07774 333 215

Emma Hughes, Research Assistant
Email: emma.hughes-2@manchester.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 275 53405 / 07774 333 217

Address for all staff:

School of Psychological Sciences, Ellen Wilkinson Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL