



Growing Vocabulary

University of York Research Project

Department of Psychology

University of York

York

YO10 5DD

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child's class will soon be taking part in a research study that will investigate language learning. The activities will be carried out in a whole classroom setting, and [HEADTEACHER] has provided consent for the school to take part. However, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve.

What is the purpose of the study?

Vocabulary knowledge plays an important role in understanding what we read, particularly as texts become more challenging throughout the school years. Our project aims to understand the different language skills that support children's word learning during development. In the first part of the study, we want to look at the ways in which a child's existing vocabulary supports their learning of new words. A second part of the study aims to link this word learning to reading comprehension ability.

Why has my child been chosen?

We are inviting whole classes of Year 3 and 4 children from the North Yorkshire area to take part in the study, and your child's school has kindly agreed to take part.

What will my child be asked to do?

For the first part of the study, the whole class will take part in a series of interactive activities that will teach them some new words and their meanings. Your child will then complete some tasks that will test their memory for these new words. He/she will carry out these memory tasks immediately after learning, the next day, and one week later.

During these class sessions, we will also be measuring some other language skills. To measure vocabulary, children will be asked to choose which of four pictures match a spoken word. To measure listening comprehension, children listen to some short stories read aloud to them and answer multiple choice questions. There will also be a short spelling test, and a booklet of nonverbal puzzles for your child to work through.

On the basis of the initial study results, your child may then be invited to take part in our second part of the study later in the school year, in which we will be working with children with a broad range of comprehension abilities. This part of the study will involve short word reading tasks, word games, and reading some stories with comprehension questions. These

tasks are completed in individual sessions with the researcher, but will be scheduled with your child's teacher to avoid disrupting important classroom activities.

What will happen to the data collected?

Your child's data will be stored anonymously and confidentially. We may share the data with your child's teachers, at their request, to inform their on-going assessments and planning.

You may contact us at any stage if you have questions about the research or would like to know more about the purpose of the study. However, we are unable to share your child's results with you, and any queries regarding their performance or progress should be directed towards their class teacher.

Contact:

The head teacher has provided consent for the class to take part, and so you do not need to do anything further at this stage. However, if you do not wish for your child to take part in the study, then please return the opt-out slip at the bottom of this letter.

If you require any further information or have any questions about this study, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Henderson:

Address: Dr Lisa Henderson, Department of Psychology, University of York, York, YO10 5DD

Phone: 01904 324362

Email: lisa-marie.henderson@york.ac.uk

Yours faithfully,



Emma James
Researcher



Growing Vocabulary Study: Opt-Out

Please return this slip to your child's classroom teacher only if you do not want your child to take part in the research.

I do not wish for my child to take part in the research project.

Child's name:

Class: