Project ES/S010203/1

**Children's communicative development - bringing experimental pragmatics to the classroom**

**Semi-structured interviews – methods**

1. Participants

Participants were purposively sampled based on the following criteria: (1) They are teachers in England; (2) They are teachers or previous teachers at Reception, KS1 or KS2. Through convenience sampling (through advertising on social media, Facebook and Twitter, and directly approaching personal contacts or teachers on Twitter), nine teachers were recruited as participants (see Table 1 for participants’ profile). Among them, four teachers (T2, T3, T5 and T9) currently taught younger children from Early Years and KS 1, while another four teachers (T4, T6, T7 and T8) taught children in KS2; T1 was previously a primary teacher and an educational consultant at the time of interview. All teachers had state school experience.

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| **Teacher** | **Year group(s) recently taught** |
| **1** | Consultant |
| **2** | Reception |
| **3** | Reception |
| **4** | Year 4 |
| **5** | Reception / Year 1 |
| **6** | Year 5 / Year 6 |
| **7** | Year 3 / Year 6 |
| **8** | Year 3 / Year 4 |
| **9** | Year 1 |

Table 1. Participants’ profile

2. Data collection

Each participant participated in a semi-structured interview which lasted approximately 60 minutes. Following the ethical requirements of considering participants’ welfare (BERA, 2018), all interviews were conducted on Zoom to avoid any potential harm or demands that may be imposed on the teachers due to Covid-19. All the interviews were recorded and transcribed using Zoom transcription under the participants’ consent.

The interview consisted in two parts: in the first, Researcher 1 asked a series of open-ended questions relating to the teaching of inferencing (as part of the current project) – see Interview Topic Guide. In the second, Researcher 2, a collaborator, followed up on some of Researcher 1’s questions, and asked others about play-based approaches to teaching, as part of their own separate, but related, project.