**English as an Additional Language (EAL) in Deaf Children with Cochlear Implants**

**Information sheet**

You are being invited to take part in this research study because you are a Speech and Language Therapist, Audiologist or Teacher of the Deaf who currently works in the UK with deaf children (aged 0-18 years old).

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why this research is being carried out and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and contact the researcher if there is anything that is unclear or if you would like more information.

The data collected in this survey are part of a MSc / PhD research project, funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council at the University of Reading. The lead researcher is Miss Emily Wright (PhD student, University of Reading) who is supervised by Prof. Ludovica Serratrice (University of Reading) and Prof. Vesna Stojanovik (University of Reading).

This application has been reviewed by the Research Ethics Committee of the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences at the University of Reading and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct.

The purpose of this study is to investigate what advice professionals who work with deaf children give to parents who are considering raising their deaf child to become bilingual in two spoken languages.

The prevalence of children in the UK who speak another language in addition to English is increasing, and research informs us that between 12% and 28% of deaf children in the UK use two spoken languages. As 90% of deaf children are born to hearing parents with little or no knowledge of deafness, professionals can be highly influential in decisions regarding the child, including decisions on parents’ language choices. However, despite the potential influence professionals can have, no research has been conducted in the UK exploring the advice professionals give to parents regarding a deaf child’s ability to acquire two spoken languages.

Taking part in this research project is completely voluntary. If you do decide that you would like to take part, you will be asked to give your consent before completing the questionnaire. You are still free to withdraw at any time whilst completing the questionnaire without giving a reason. By completing the questionnaire you are indicating your consent to your anonymous responses being included in our research project.

You may stop the questionnaire at any point if you wish to. You may restart the questionnaire at a later point or choose to be withdrawn from the study by not completing the questionnaire.

Confidentiality, privacy and anonymity will be ensured in the collection, storage and publication of the research material. The data from the completed questionnaires will be stored in a password-protected file on a password-protected computer. Personal data will not be collected from participants for the questionnaire; however, participants will be asked at the end to enter their email address if they wish to be included in a follow up study involving interviews as part of the researcher’s PhD project. This personal data will be stored securely in a different password-protected file on a password protected computer, separate to the questionnaire responses. The data generated by the study will be securely retained by the principal investigator in accordance with the University’s policy on Academic Integrity for a period of 5 years after the completion of the research project. After this period, all personal information will be securely disposed of. Anonymised data may be kept at the University for future research. The anonymised data may be used as part of published research and conference presentations. If participants request to know the outcome of the study, they can contact the investigator using the contact details provided.

If you have any questions about this survey, please email Emily Wright at the University of Reading - e.s.wright@student.reading.ac.uk. Alternatively, if you do not wish to contact the researcher, you may contact Professor Ludovica Serratrice who is supervising this research project at [l.serratrice@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.serratrice@reading.ac.uk).

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. If you decide to take part in the study, thank you for your participation.

Emily Wright (Lead Researcher)