



Participant Information Sheet

A study exploring the effectiveness of visual aids within classroom environments regarding the development of phonological awareness in children aged five to six years; Does this influence word reading ability?



31st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

University Research Project - Participant Information

My name is Rebecca Horsler. Currently, I am a psychology student at Nottingham Trent University, conducting my final year research project.

This study is set to explore the use of visual aids during phonics learning (a picture relating to the phoneme) to understand whether this helps or hinders student's development regarding their phonological awareness and word reading ability.

Why have we been approached to take part?

All Year One Students have been asked to take part in this study as they fit the age five to six year category. At this age, phoneme awareness along with reading and spelling begin to materialise.

What will happen if we agree to take part?

The children who participate will be asked to answer questions regarding their phonics knowledge using phonics phase cards along with their word reading ability with verbal test in response to a visual prompt. You will be asked to complete the consent forms on behalf of your child and give a unique identifier code to ensure anonymity. Consent will be asked from you for your child.

What are the benefits and risks of taking part?

The benefits of taking part are that the research will help inform about knowledge about variables that could impact phonics instruction. The study is being completed as part of my undergraduate degree and is intended to measure reading progress within your child's school.

There are very few risks to taking part, and children usually enjoy completing these types of activities. Furthermore, I currently work in Year 1/2, so there is familiarity for the children, they will feel more at ease as I have worked with the children before during their phonics lessons, reducing uncertainty for them.

Along with this, the study will be completed outside of core lesson time during time for foundation topics where there is flexibility for both the lesson to be completed and for the study.

Any disclosure regarding safeguarding issues may have to be reported to third parties.

What if I change my mind?

You can change your mind and withdraw your consent by contacting either your child's school, myself or my project supervisor Janet Vousden (janet.vousden@ntu.ac.uk) with your unique ID. You should do this no later than **18th April 2025**.

Headteacher: Mrs R Ayres

St. Mary's C of E Primary School, Station Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1AW

Tel: (01455) 637477 office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk



How will you use and keep my information?



The data will be anonymised via the use of a unique identifier code, provided by yourself, and analysed for the purpose of collecting set of overall results to help answer my research question. The documents linking names to codes will be held by the school and will not leave the school premises. It will be destroyed after the data withdrawal deadline has passed.

How will you collect this information?

The children who participate will be asked to answer questions regarding their phonics and word reading ability and I will write down their responses and collate this information. This will be conducted within the classroom with other teachers present.



Are you allowed to do this?



The details of this research project have been considered by Nottingham Trent University's Schools of Business, Law and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee and has met with a favourable ethics opinion.

If at any stage you have any concerns or complaints regarding the project and would like to speak with someone at NTU who is not directly involved in this research, or if you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact:

Duncan Guest, Associate Dean - NTU Psychology, Department of Psychology, Nottingham Trent University, 50 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4FQ, [+44 115 84 82701](tel:+441158482701) duncan.guest@ntu.ac.uk

Who gets to see the information?

Only my university supervisor and I will see the raw data. The anonymised data will be seen by an external examination marker for the purpose of grading my final year project.



Who is paying for this research?

This project is an unfunded student project.

What's next?

If you agree to your child participating in this research study, please complete the consent forms and return this to the school. Thankyou. If you change your mind before **18th April 2025**, you may withdraw consent either by contacting the school or my supervisor Janet Vousden (janet.vousden@ntu.ac.uk) with your unique ID. Please note if you contact us via email, your anonymity may be compromised as email addresses often contain personal information. However, we will delete your data and email as soon as possible.

Contact Information

Rebecca Horsler, Psychology Department, Nottingham Trent University, 50 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, NG1 4FQ. Email: rebecca.horsler2021ntu.ac.uk

Janet Vousden, Psychology Department, Nottingham Trent University, 50 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, NG1 4FQ. Email: janet.vousden@ntu.ac.uk Phone Number: [+44 \(0\)115 848 5513](tel:+441158485513)

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