

# Effectiveness Trial of Nuffield Early Language Intervention Preschool (NELI Preschool) 2024-2025

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that your child's nursery is participating in an Effectiveness Trial of the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) Preschool programme. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out this trial (also known as an evaluation). The programme is delivered by OxEd & Assessment (OxEd). By taking part in the evaluation, your child's nursery is demonstrating a commitment to supporting evidence-based practice.

## **What is the NELI Preschool Programme?**

NELI Preschool is a 20-week oral language programme, centred around shared storybook reading to improve the oral language skills of children in nursery settings. Each week focuses on a different book with activities to encourage the development of a rich vocabulary and ability to listen to, tell and enjoy stories.

## **What will happen during the evaluation?**

The evaluation will assess the impact of the NELI Preschool Programme on oral language skills for children aged 3 to 4 years old. It will be run as a randomised controlled trial (RCT) in the academic year 2024-25, during which NFER will randomly allocate participating nursery settings to one of the two groups:

- 1) The intervention group, who will deliver the NELI Preschool programme; or
- 2) The control group, who will continue with their usual practice.

## **What will we ask your child to do during the evaluation?**

At the start of the evaluation, a practitioner from your nursery will assess your child's oral language skills using an online assessment called LanguageScreen.

Your child will be assessed again using Language Screen in summer 2025 by an NFER Test Administrator (after the programme delivery is complete). The Test Administrator will also assess your child's speech and language skills via the Renfrew Action Picture Test (RAPT). This is a paper-based assessment that involves showing your child 10 picture cards and asking them a question about each one. Further information about the evaluation, and what it involves can be found [here](#).

## **What data will we collect?**

The privacy notice (see [here](#)) summarises what personal data will be collected, how it will be used and protected, and with whom it will be shared. When administering the RAPT, we will **audio (voice) record** your child's responses. We will use the audio recording to create a transcript (written record) of each response. The recording helps us to ensure that we have accurately captured your child's responses. Once we have created the transcript, the audio recording **will be deleted**.

### How will we use data collected?

A report will be produced and published on EEF's website at the end of the evaluation. **No children or nurseries will be identified in any of the reports from this research.** We have robust procedures in place to make sure that we comply with the requirements of GDPR and keep data safe and secure.

### Does my child have to take part in the evaluation?

If you are happy for your child's data to be used for this research, **you do not need to do anything.** NFER greatly appreciates parent/guardian support in accessing child data as this is crucial for the validity of the results.

If you would prefer your child's data not to be shared, stored and used for this research, **or** if you would prefer not to have your child's voice recorded for administration of the RAPT (which will be treated as a withdrawal from the data sharing for the whole evaluation), please complete the form below and return it to your child's room leader or class teacher.

You can withdraw your child from the data collection for the evaluation at any time up until **July 2025**, from which point the data will be analysed. If you withdraw your child from the project, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to that point in our analysis. Note that withdrawing your child's data from the evaluation will not impact their involvement in classroom activities around the project.

If you have any queries, please contact us via email at [NELIPreschool@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:NELIPreschool@nfer.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Hurd  
Evaluation and Survey Operations Lead  
National Foundation for Educational Research

**Effectiveness Trial of Nuffield Early Language Intervention Preschool (NELI Preschool):  
Withdrawal from data processing form for parents**

You only need to complete this form if you **DO NOT** wish your child's data to be shared, stored, and used for this evaluation **or if you would prefer** your child's voice not to be recorded for administration of the RAPT (which will be treated as a withdrawal from the data sharing for the whole evaluation).

I **DO NOT** give permission for data about my child that is collected as part of the evaluation to be stored or used for research purposes or for my child's voice to be recorded.

Your child's name.....

Child's class.....

Name of nursery .....

Your full name.....

Your signature.....Date.....