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NFER
National Foundation for
Educational Research

18.10.21

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Story Time Trial: A Teacher Choices Trial

We are writing to you to let you know that your child's school has agreed to participate in a research project to determine the impact of teachers' choices in the classroom. This is an exciting study and all the children in your child's class have been selected to take part.

The Story Time Trial is the second trial in the Teacher Choices project. It will evaluate two different approaches to class teachers reading aloud to the whole class in Primary schools. The trial examines how teacher choices impact on pupils' learning in, and attitudes to, primary reading via a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT). This means schools will be randomly allocated to one of two groups, each of which will be assigned a different way of reading to their classes. The random allocation ensures that, as far as possible, there are no systematic differences between the two groups of schools in factors that may affect outcomes in the classroom. It will enable us to determine the cause and effect relationship between the choices and outcomes in the classroom.

The study will compare two popular ways that teachers read in their classroom: a sustained reading – 'GO! approach'; and reading with pauses to ask questions – 'STOP! approach'. Reading the story without pausing is a popular way of reading aloud that builds on an established tradition of sharing stories, exposing children to a wide range of texts and seeking to instill in pupils an enjoyment of, and motivation to, read. In contrast, there is evidence to suggest that reading the text and pausing to ask questions may help to model to children the implicit processes that accomplished readers undertake when reading, helping them to develop these skills for themselves.

We very much appreciate your and your child's participation. Enclosed with this letter you will find a 'Parent Information Sheet' with more information about the research and our commitment to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), including where you can access the privacy notice.

If you are happy for your child's data to be used for this project (as described in the 'Parent Information Sheet'), you do not need to return the enclosed reply slip. However, please inform your child's teacher if you would like to withdraw your child's data from this project at any subsequent stage. If you would prefer your child's data not to be shared, stored and used for this project, please complete the enclosed form and return it to your child's school by Wednesday, 13th October.

If you have any queries please contact me via email at storytimeRCT@nfer.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England





Guvi Chohan
Project Manager, Research and Product Operations
National Foundation for Educational Research

The Story Time Trial: A Teacher Choices Trial – withdrawal from data processing.

You only need to complete this form if you **DO NOT** wish your child's data to be shared, stored and used for this research.

I **DO NOT** give permission for data about my child that is collected as part of the above research project to be shared, stored or used for research purposes.

Child's name.....Child's class:.....

Name of school.....

Your full name.....

Your telephone number (optional).....

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

