



Education  
Endowment  
Foundation



**NFER**  
National Foundation for  
Educational Research

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## The Story Time Trial: A Teacher Choices Trial Parent Information Sheet

### **What is the Teacher Choices project?**

The Teacher Choices project is exploring the feasibility of running robust evaluations of the everyday choices teachers make in the classroom. In every lesson, teachers choose how to approach teaching and learning (such as how to start a lesson, how to engage pupils, or how to manage behaviour). The Teacher Choices project aims to find out how everyday teacher choices are implemented and affect outcomes in the classroom, exploring if a randomised controlled trial (RCT) methodology can be used to do this.

### **Who is conducting the study?**

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned and funded this study. The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is conducting the evaluation.

### **What is 'The Story Time Trial'?**

The Story Time Trial is the second trial in the Teacher Choices project. It will evaluate two different approaches to reading in primary schools in order to examine how the choices teachers make impact on pupils' learning in reading. The study will compare two popular ways that teachers read aloud in their classrooms: a sustained reading – 'GO! approach'; and reading with pauses to ask questions – 'STOP! approach'. The 'GO! approach' encourages the sustained reading of the text with no breaks for questions. The 'STOP! approach' encourages regular pausing throughout the reading to promote questions regarding the text. Year 4 and Year 5 teachers will use the approaches in their classes in the second half of the autumn term 2021 for approximately three weeks. After this, teachers will ask pupils to complete a short survey and carry out an assessment. The survey will ask views about pupils' engagement and confidence with, and enjoyment of, reading. The age-appropriate assessment will assess pupils' understanding of the text and comprehension skills. NFER will collect these scores to assess the impact of the two reading approaches.

### **What will the evaluation involve for my child?**

Initially, your child's teacher will provide NFER, via a secure school portal, with your child's:

Name, date of birth, gender, whether English is an additional language (EAL) and free school meals eligibility (FSM).

Where schools agree, we will collect English reading assessment outcomes for pupils directly from the commercial test providers used by schools. This will be achieved by sharing pupil data with them.



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NFER will randomly allocate your child's school to apply one of the two reading approaches. Your child's teacher will, then, read aloud the same book through the approach they have been assigned.

If it is safe and convenient for schools, the evaluators would also like to visit a small number of schools to observe the reading approaches in practice and speak to teachers and pupils about their experiences of the reading approaches.

Teachers will also provide their views on the sessions through a short survey.

### **What are the benefits of my child taking part?**

The trial aims to provide evidence that will be useful for teachers when they are planning their lessons. Your child's participation will help to strengthen the evidence on the impact teacher choices can have on pupils' attainment and how to robustly evaluate teacher choices.

### **How will the findings be used?**

A summary of the findings will be shared with participating schools and this will also be freely available on the NFER and EEF websites. The findings will also be used to provide a report to EEF on the feasibility of running Teacher Choices trials in future.

### **What happens if my child wants to withdraw from the trial?**

You may withdraw your child's data from being used in the trial at any time. To do this, you must inform your child's school. If you would prefer your child's data not to be shared, stored and used for this project, please complete the withdrawal form, contained in the letter that the school will provide you with, and return it to the school.

### **How will NFER use and protect the data collected?**

All data gathered during the trial will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679, and will be treated in the strictest confidence by NFER. All pupil-level data shared by schools with NFER will be done so via a secure school portal. For the purposes of the trial, all pupils will have an ID number for the purpose of anonymisation. No school, teacher or pupil will be named in any report arising from this work. A Privacy Notice for the study is available at:

[https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/3870/eetc\\_tc2\\_privacy\\_notice.pdf](https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/3870/eetc_tc2_privacy_notice.pdf)

**Who can I contact for more information?** For further information, please contact Tom Kirkup, NFER Researcher via [storytimeRCT@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:storytimeRCT@nfer.ac.uk)