

SUGGESTED DRAFT MESSAGE FOR TEACHERS TO SEND TO PARENTS OF DEAF CHILDREN WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE UCL, VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND READING RESEARCH PROJECT

Email title:

Visual Communication and Reading in Deaf Children – UCL Research Project

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A team of researchers at University College London (UCL) have been in contact with us about their project which focusses on the role of visual communication in reading development in deaf children. This looks like a very interesting research project, which will answer some important questions about reading development in deaf children – such as:

- How does lipreading contribute to reading development in deaf children?
- Does phonological awareness of English contribute to reading in deaf children in the same way as has been shown in hearing children?
- In deaf children who use BSL, how does BSL and fingerspelling proficiency contribute to reading development?

We are contacting you to ask if you would like your child to take part in this project in Autumn 2023?

Your child would be visited by the team twice in Reception, Yr1 and Yr2. Six times in total. At each visit your child would be tested on a range of language ‘games’.

You can find out more about the project at this website: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/icn/research/research-groups/visual-communication/visual-communication-reading-development-project>

This page has brief information and a video showing what is involved. At the bottom of the page there is a link to the Information Sheet and Consent Form. This information is also available in BSL. The Information Sheet gives you all the details about the project. Please do read it very carefully.

If you are happy for your child to be involved – then please do complete the online consent form (link at the bottom of the webpage above). All data is automatically stored directly onto a secure server at UCL.

When you’ve completed the consent form, you will then be asked to complete a quick online background survey. If you prefer, a teacher at the school can complete this on your behalf. The research team will then work with you and our school to plan a date to visit school in October/ November 2023. So please do sign up as soon as possible, and before October half-term at the latest.

If you have any questions about the research – please contact the team on- visualCR@ucl.ac.uk. They are happy to meet with you online to answer any questions you may have.

We do hope you’re interested in being involved in this exciting project.

All the best

Note: This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee, Project ID: 3612/012