

The Language Explorer

Section 1: Information about The Language Explorer

Invitation

We are asking if your child would be willing to participate in our Citizen Research Project to help create our app *The Language Explorer* which aims to create a fun story-telling app that helps Speech and Language Therapists identify Developmental Language Disorders (DLD) in Children. Before you decide if you want your child to join in, it's important to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve for you.

What is the project and who is involved?

Funded by the National Institute for Health Research's Invention for Innovation Programme, Therapy Box is leading a collaborative project to create a fun story-telling app that helps Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) identify Developmental Language Disorders (DLD) in Children. The other collaborative partners involved in the project include Bristol Community Health, North Bristol NHS Trust and Newcastle University.

DLD affects 8% of children in the UK and therefore, it is vital that Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) have the necessary tools to quickly detect the language condition, to tailor their plans for therapy, and to have a record of key outcome measures. The Language Explorer Project seeks to achieve this by digitalising existing practices used by SLTs, and by using new technologies to improve the process of identifying speech patterns common in children living with DLD.

The Language Explorer measures a child's language and speech capabilities by having them participate in a three-staged assessment, based on an animated children's story. The three-stages of the assessment include narration, repetition, and comprehension. After completion, a report of the child's score on a number of key outcome measures is generated, and a comparison of the child's performance against a standardised dataset is provided. This allows the therapist to understand what specific speech-related issues the child is experiencing, and how their abilities compare to the average child of the same demographic.

Why has your child been invited to participate?

As mentioned, for The Language Explorer to perform effectively it is reliant on a standardised database. This standardised dataset allows for a comparison between the user's performance in the assessment and the average child of the same demographic. To create this standardised dataset, around 600 children from across England and Wales are required to take part in the app's assessment. This allows for the dataset to ascertain the average language abilities of children, whilst controlling for a number of potential confounding factors.

We are not collecting this data until 2020, but we are hoping to work with some participants now to collect data to test everything is working well in the software with real children. Also, we would like to collect feedback on how you find the app, so we can make changes before the study starts.

Information collected on your child

Data about your child's *Age, Gender, Language, Location*, whether they have a known *Language and/or Speech Disability* and *whether they have any other disability* will be recorded. However, this data is collected in a way that preserves your child's anonymity. When collecting the *Age* of your child, we only require the Birth Month and Year. When recording the *Location* of your child, only the first half of the postcode is requested. This is because it is only necessary for us to know the region your child comes from, not their actual address. The name of your child is also not stored.

The benefits of your child's participation

Your child will help us make decisions about how the app works ahead of our research project where we need 600 children to use the app. We hope that this is useful for your child to be a part of. You can keep up to date with the project on our website.

What your child’s participation will entail

Your child will be guided through the entire process by our research team. First, they will fill in basic information as specified in the *Information collected on your child* section. Your child will then see and hear a story, and will then be asked to retell their story. This will be recorded as an audio file for later analysis by our system. They will also be asked some questions about the story and be asked to repeat some sentences. This should take about 5-10 minutes at most.

Does your child have to take part?

The research is entirely voluntary, and the decision of whether your child participates is totally up to you. We will describe the study and go through this information sheet. If you agree for your child to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw your child at any time, without giving a reason.

Section 2: To be completed by the Guardian of the Participant

Name of Participant:

Name of Guardian:

Address:

Post Code:

Guardian’s Email Address:

Guardian’s Phone Number:

I agree to be voice recorded	YES/NO
I agree to have personal data anonymously collected by Therapy Box	YES/NO
I agree to have my performance on the assessment recorded by Therapy Box	YES/NO
I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the research and know what is involved	YES/NO
I understand I may withdraw my participation any point before taking the assessment	YES/NO

Signature:
Guardian of Participant

Date:

Signature:
Researcher

Date: