



Practitioner guide for talking with families about *Talking Time*®

To help with Step 7: supporting families to understand and return their consent forms

This guide highlights key points for conversations with families about *Talking Time*®. It's designed to help you make sure families understand what will be involved for their child and what they are being asked to give consent for.

Talking Time

Our setting is taking part in a project using *Talking Time*®

- Talking Time is a programme of activities and games designed to develop children's speaking and listening skills. These skills are vital to help children learn to read and write, make relationships with other children, and become confident and successful learners.
- Previous research has shown that children enjoy and benefit from the *Talking Time*® activities.

The evaluation study

The project is a national research study involving 130 early years settings across the country:

- The aim is to evaluate *Talking Time*® and find out if it boosts children's language, and helps staff improve their practice.
- Half of settings will use *Talking Time*® and the other half will not, so the researchers can compare the language progress of children in the two groups and see if *Talking Time*® makes a difference
- If we are in the 'Talking Time' group, all our 3-and-4-year-olds will take part in small group activities, twice a week. These will take place within the normal nursery routine and with the usual staff.
- A mentor will also work with our setting staff to develop their practice in supporting children's speaking and listening skills.
- If we are in the 'non-Talking Time' group our setting will receive some funding as a thank you for taking part which will support our nursery's work and may be used to access Talking Time next year.

Data collection and consent

As part of the study the researchers need to collect information about children's language skills and about how staff talk with children. They would like to ask your consent for your child to be part of this. Three types of information would be collected:

1. Your child would take part in some short activities and games at the start and end of the project with a researcher. The researcher would record these so they can capture children's language accurately. The activities are short and fun for children.
2. Some staff in the nursery will record themselves reading with a small group of children at the start and end of the project
3. If we use *Talking Time*®, we would video record some of the groups to talk about with our mentor, to help us develop our practice – and to help the researchers see how we are using the programme

We would like to ask for your agreement for your child to take part in these activities.

Giving consent

It is important that lots of children take part so the researchers can find out if *Talking Time*® helps children to develop their speaking and listening skills. BUT it's also very important that you feel happy to give consent – and understand that you can say no if you want to, without any negative consequences for you or your child.

- If you are happy for your child to take part, please sign the consent form.
- The first box confirms you are happy for your child to take part in the study.
- Boxes 2 & 3 confirm that you are happy for your child to take part in the audio-recorded story groups and video recorded *Talking Time*® groups. You can give consent for some parts and not others.
- If you give consent and then change your mind, you can withdraw it later by letting us know.

If you give consent, we would also share some information about your child with the research team, for example their name, date of birth, gender, whether they speak English as their first language, and whether you are eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium.

Data, funding and ethics

- The researchers will take great care with the information they collect, including your child's information. You can scan the QR code to read a Privacy Notice with more information about this Data will be shared and processed in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- The study has received ethical approval.
- The study is being funded by the Education Endowment Foundation, our local Stronger Practice Hubs and the Nuffield Foundation.