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| **Frequently asked questions (FAQ)** |

# Who is conducting the Talking Time© evaluation study?

The University of Oxford and University College London (UCL), Institute of Education have developed *Talking Time*© and will run the project with schools and nurseries. The mentors working to support staff in nursery settings are experienced early years’ professionals. A team from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), supported by a team from Qa Research, will be evaluating the programme’s impact and investigating children’s language skills. The Qa Research team are used to working with young children and will make the process a gentle, reassuring one.

# What information will be collected and how will it be used?

To run the *Talking Time*© programme and evaluate its impact, your child’s school/nursery will share data on your child with the research teams (NIESR, University of Oxford, UCL and Qa Research). This will be data on your child’s name, date of birth, gender, language development (including any language-related additional needs), unique pupil number (UPN), receipt of the Early Years Pupil Premium, and if English is spoken as an additional language (we will also ask you about the languages you speak at home). Children’s attendance in *Talking Time*© sessions will also be shared by the setting. This personal data shared by settings will only be used for this evaluation of Talking Time.

As part of the evaluation study, scores and audio recordings from children’s individual language assessments will be gathered. Participation in the study is voluntary. Your child’s language assessment scores will not be shared with the school/nursery, or with families. Data gathered from each child will be allocated a code so that individuals are not identifiable during analysis. For research purposes, the data provided by settings, along with the scores from the language assessments will be linked to other data sets and shared with other organisations. Details of this are set out in the privacy notice (see below).

Video recordings of Talking Time sessions and audio recordings of story groups will be collected. Participation in these recordings is voluntary. You can consent to just one recording type (audio or video) or both. If you give consent to any of the evaluation activities, the consent forms will be collected.

The ways we will use the information collected is explained in the privacy notice (see QR code below). Two final reports are expected to be published in Summer 2026. No individual child or setting will be identifiable in these reports or any other project publication - all details will be fully anonymised.

**Who has reviewed the planned research?**

The work has been reviewed and received approval from the ethics committee at NIESR (NIESR project code EP30) and also a subcommittee of the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee: University of Oxford ethics reference: EDUC\_C1A\_24\_011\_Amendment\_01.

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| How is the information protected?We take you and your child’s data security very seriously and will be working closely with your child’s school/nursery to ensure that data is handled appropriately and securely. Data will be shared and processed in accordance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Full details relating to GDPR, third parties and confidentiality are provided in the associated privacy notice. You can access this via this link [Privacy Notice (Parents)](https://www.niesr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Talking-Time-Privacy-Notice-Parents-1.pdf?ver=H2BHbu6dXluFZG7qfTcJ) or scanning the QR code. Please read this carefully. You will need to confirm that you have read and understood this information before proceeding.  |  |

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| Who do I contact if I have questions…If you have any general questions about the Talking Time programme and associated evaluation study, please feel free to contact the evaluation team at TalkingTime@niesr.ac.uk or by calling 020 3948 4488. You can also contact the *Talking Time*© team: talkingtime@education.ox.ac.ukIf you have questions or concerns over how your data is being processed or wish to exercise any of the rights in connection with this research project, please refer to the privacy notice which contains all the relevant details.If you have concern about any other aspect of this project activity, please contact: * NIESR contact: Edoardo Masset TalkingTime@niesr.ac.uk
* University of Oxford: Dr Sandra Mathers talkingtime@education.ox.ac.uk

We will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact:* University of Oxford Research Governance, Ethics & Assurance (RGEA) team at rgea.complaints@admin.ox.ac.uk or on 01865 616480
* NIESR Ethics committee: Katharine Stockland k.stockland@niesr.ac.uk
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