

# The Impact of COVID-19 on Children's Language, Socioemotional and Educational Outcomes

Dear colleague,

We would like to invite you and your school to take part in an educational research study. This study is being led by Dr Claudine Bowyer-Crane from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, with Dr Sara Bonetti from the Education Policy Institute, and Dr Silke Fricke from the University of Sheffield.

## What is the aim of this study?

This project seeks to understand the impact of the pandemic on children's language, socioemotional and educational outcomes. Importantly, the study will look at the ongoing impact as well as short-term impact by following children over a three-year period. Specifically, we are recruiting children in Reception, Year One and Year Two.

## Who is eligible to take part in the study?

We are inviting all infant and primary schools to take part in the study with the exception of schools who have less than 10 children in one or more of our target year groups; Reception, Year One and Year Two.

## What does taking part in the research involve?

The project will run for three academic years starting in Sept 2021/22. During that period, we will ask schools to complete an annual survey, and send out a link to parents for an annual survey. All survey data will be submitted directly to us; you will **not** have to collate surveys to return to us. We will also ask you to collect data from at least 10 children in the target year groups using a language measure and a measure of socioemotional skills. In the first year this data will be collected at the beginning and end of the academic year. In subsequent years it will only be collected at the end of the academic year. All data will be collected using web-based or app-based tasks making data collection quick and easy. Because we are using online and app measures data will be automatically submitted to us, so you don't need to worry about sending us the data. Figure one shows you a timeline of the project and how it will work for each year group. The study is longitudinal so the number of children to be tested decreases as children age out of the study e.g. children recruited in Reception will be followed until Y2, while children recruited in Y2 will only be seen in the academic year 2021/22. We will also access NPD data for all children taking part in the study where it is available. Parent consent will be sought, we will ensure data sharing agreements are in place and that all our procedures are GDPR compliant.

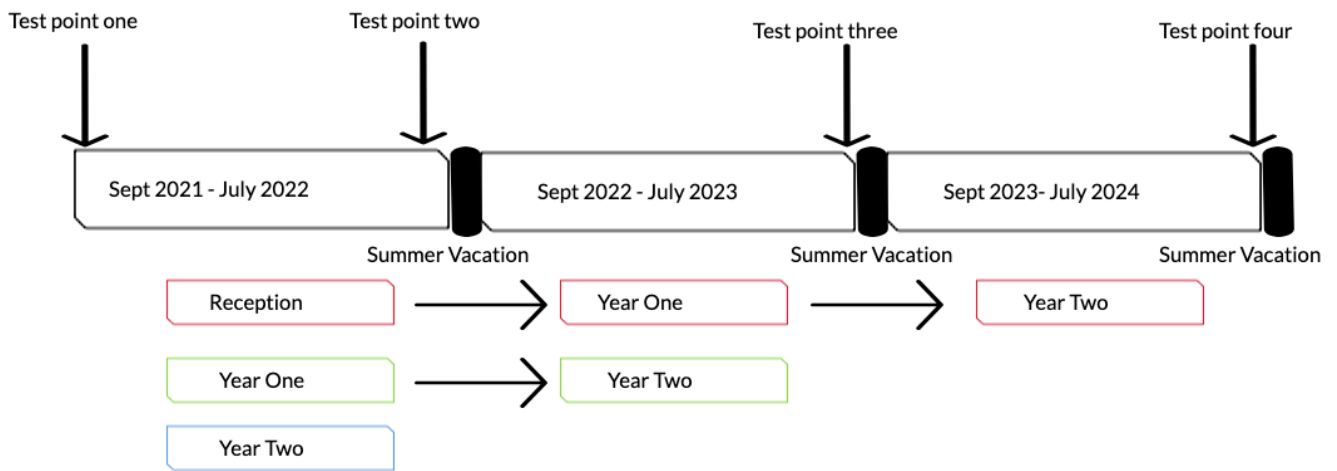


Figure one. Timeline of child level data collection

### What are the benefits of participating in this study?

#### Schools opting to join the study will receive:

- Funds to pay for a tablet (necessary for completing the assessments) or a financial contribution if the school already has a tablet. The tablet will be the property of the school in perpetuity
- A contribution to the costs of the teachers or teaching assistants completing the assessments
- Entry into a prize draw in years two and three of the study with a prize of £100 available each year

Parents will be entered into a £50 prize draw each time they complete the survey with five prizes available in every draw

### Next Steps?

We hope you consider taking part in this research. If you would like to sign up, please email Dr Claudine Bowyer-Crane at [ICICLES@niesr.ac.uk](mailto:ICICLES@niesr.ac.uk). We can then send you a memorandum of understanding to sign and return. Once we receive the signed memorandum of understanding we will consider you fully signed up to the study and will get in touch with you about the next steps. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes

Claudine, Sara and Silke.