

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS/CARERS

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

The purpose of the research

The aim of the project is to develop a test of English speechreading that will allow researchers and professionals to assess individual differences between children in their ability to lipread. The test will be suitable for children aged about 5 years upwards, and has been designed with the needs of the deaf child in mind. Children will not be asked to say what they see the model say, but will choose a picture corresponding to the name of what s/he says. Vocabulary and sentence structure will be suitable for deaf children who may have had relatively little experience in spoken English. We hope that this test will be more suitable for the purpose of assessing speechreading than most of the other tests currently in use, which have been designed primarily for people who lose hearing later in life.

When and where will the research be done?

We hope to collect the data during the school year 2006-7, at school, home or at the DCAL centre in London (address on this form). Some children who are having speech and language therapy may be tested at their speech clinic.

What does the research involve?

In the first place we will ask you to complete a questionnaire about your child's language background. This can be completed before the child is tested. It should take not more than 15 minutes to complete. Then our researcher, Dr Fiona Kyle, will test your child using computer-based tests, mainly. Your child should complete these tests on her/his own. The speechreading test is mounted on a computer and instructions are available in BSL or in English. Further short tests may include a short test of nonverbal intelligence, and a short test of BSL. The whole session will last less than one hour. We may videotape the session in order to be sure that we have scored items correctly.

Why has your child been chosen?

We need to collect data from hearing children and deaf children. The Head Teacher of your child's School has kindly agreed that we may contact you to ask your permission (and we will also ask for your child's permission) to take part in the study.

Does your child have to take part?

It is up to you to agree that your child may take part. If you do agree, you will be asked to sign a consent form. If you agree, you are still free to withdraw your child at any time and without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part, will not affect the standard of care your child receives. If your child decides s/he does not want to take part at any time we will immediately stop doing the task. We will also regularly check that your child is happy to continue.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no disadvantages to your child taking part in the research. The tests are not stressful or demanding, and there are no personal or intrusive questions on the questionnaires.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We hope that the information we get from this study may help us understand more about deafness and speechreading, especially in relation to school progress for the deaf child. The school will be compensated for allowing us to test your child. If you have been referred outside the school system, your child will get a small token of our thanks for helping us with this research.

Will you let me know my child's scores? Who else will know them?

We will not be able to let you know your child's speechreading score at the end of the session, since it is only when we have collected all the data that we will be able to devise a *standard* score, which tells us how good your child is relative to other children. If you wish to find out the score that your child achieved, please contact us at the end of 2007.

What if something goes wrong?

In the unlikely event of something going wrong during the study, and if you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or the way in which your child has been dealt with during the course of this study, please send your complaint to Professor Bencie Woll, Director DCAL, University College London, 49 Gordon Square London WC1 H 0PD.

Further information about your child

We may need to consult School records for confirmation of some aspects of your child's status. This may include their audiological record, but possibly also their health and school record.

How confidential are the results?

We will keep secure records of your child's scores, which will be anonymous for research analysis and report. All information which is collected about your child during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Any information about your child will have your name and address removed so that you cannot be recognised from it. The school, the children and the teachers will remain anonymous throughout the research. The children will not be mentioned by name in any of the reports of the project. No-one but the research team has access to these records, or can identify your child from the scores.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

When the research is completed, the results will be reported in publications and as a test. We will notify our research sponsors, the ESRC, of the general findings, again keeping all details anonymous.

What is the next step?

If you agree to allow your child to take part in the study, please sign the attached *Consent Form for Parents/Carers* and return it to [*Head Teacher's name*]

We very much hope that you will allow your child to take part in this research.
THANK YOU!

Professor Ruth Campbell
DCAL, University College London
49 Gordon Square
London WC1 H 0PD e-mail r.campbell@ucl.ac.uk, telephone 0207 679 8672

Dr Fiona Kyle
DCAL, University College London
49 Gordon Square
London WC1 H 0PD e-mail f.kyle@ucl.ac.uk, telephone 0207 679 8677

To be completed by the parents/carers:

- 1. I have read the information sheet about the study.....yes/no
- 2. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the study.....yes/no
- 3. I have received satisfactory answers to my questions.....yes/no
- 4. I have received enough information about this study.....yes/no
- 5. I understand that I am free to withdraw my child from this study at any time and without giving a reason for withdrawing.....yes/no
- 6. I give permission for my child's video recording to be used only for data analysis in this research.....yes/no
- 7. I understand that the research videos will be destroyed after five years.....yes/no
- 8. I understand that if the videos are needed after five years, that my permission will be sought again..... yes/no
- 9. I understand that the researchers will consult my child's school record for background informationyes/no

Signed.....Date.....

Your Name (in block letters).....

Your child's name (in block letters).....

*Address.....
.....

*Tel. Number

*other contacts (e-mail, mobile etc)

* Optional – but will allow us to contact you in the future.

To be completed by the participant (child form)

This form was administered in BSL/ English (please circle)

- 1. It has been explained that I do not have to do this study unless I want to. yes/no
- 2. Fiona has explained what the study is about yes/no
- 3. Fiona asked me if I had any questions about it yes/no
- 4. When I asked her, I understood her answers yes/no
- 5. I understand that I am going to be tested on the computer, to see how good I am at speechreading yes/no
- 6. I understand that I can stop the study at any time to ask questions yes/no
- 7. I understand that if I feel uncomfortable I can stop doing the study at any time and do not have to give a reason yes/no
- 8. When the test is over, I understand that my results will be kept safely and not shown to anyone except Fiona's research team yes/no

Signed.....Date.....

My name is

My parent's name is