
Pilot of the Renfrew Action Picture Test and LanguageScreen 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that your child's nursery setting is participating in a pilot which will test the processes for administering the Renfrew Action Picture Test (RAPT) together with LanguageScreen to children aged three to four years old. The pilot will also trial the process for capturing and scoring children's responses to the RAPT. Both the RAPT and LanguageScreen have been designed to help assess children's language skills in a fun and engaging way although please note the focus of this pilot is on trialling processes rather than assessing the language skills of individual children.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out this pilot. By taking part in the pilot, your child's nursery is demonstrating a commitment to supporting evidence-based practice.

What is the RAPT?

The RAPT is a language assessment tool that measures the speech and language development of children between the ages of three and eight years old. It is a paper-based assessment that involves showing children a series of pictures depicting everyday events and asking them a question about each one.

What is LanguageScreen?

LanguageScreen is a digital language assessment tool which has been developed to test the oral language skills of children aged three to eleven. The LanguageScreen app includes four subtests that assess key aspects of language development. The assessment is delivered using a tablet.

What will happen during the pilot?

The pilot will involve visits by two NFER Test Administrators to up to three nurseries where they will administer both the RAPT and LanguageScreen to eight children aged three to four years old. The pilot will provide valuable insights into the administration of both tests together and the process of scoring the RAPT for larger numbers of children.

What will we ask your child to do during the pilot?

The two NFER Test Administrators will visit your nursery on an agreed date in March. One will carry out the testing of children while the other observes. During their visit the lead Test Administrator will assess your child's language skills using both LanguageScreen and the RAPT. No personal data about your child will be collected as we are assessing children for the purpose only of trialling the assessment process and scoring processes (for RAPT). Assessments will be carried out on an individual rather than a whole class basis and will take a maximum of 30 minutes. A member of the nursery staff will be available during the assessments to provide support and reassurance if needed, but they will not be directly involved in administering the tests.

What data will we collect?

The following personal data will be collected for each selected child aged 3-4 years in participating nurseries:

- Children's voice recorded responses to the RAPT assessment.

Responses to both LanguageScreen and the RAPT will be anonymised, children's personal details will not be collected.

The privacy notice (shared with this letter) summarises further details on what personal data will be collected, how it will be used and protected, and with whom it will be shared. When administering the RAPT, we will **make a voice recording** of your child's answers to the assessment questions. We will use this voice recording to create a written record (transcript) of each response. The recording helps us to ensure that we have accurately captured your child's answers, which helps scoring of the RAPT. Once we have created the transcript and all scoring of responses is complete, the voice recording **will be deleted**.

How will we use data collected?

Findings from the pilot will inform recommendations on how to effectively scale up the use of LanguageScreen and RAPT in a larger trial involving more nursery settings and Test Administrators. We will share a summary of lessons learned from conducting the pilot with the funders EEF.

No children or nurseries will be identified in the pilot report. We have robust procedures in place to make sure that we comply with the requirements of GDPR and keep data safe and secure.

Does my child have to take part in the pilot?

Nursery practitioners will select eight to ten children from your child's nursery to take part in the pilot. We are sharing this letter with all parents whose children may be selected.

If you are happy for your child to take part in this pilot and for their assessment data to be collected, **you do not need to do anything**. NFER greatly appreciates parent/guardian support in allowing their children to take part in evaluations as this is crucial for the validity of the results.

If you would prefer your child not to take part in the pilot **or** if you would prefer not to have your child's voice recorded for administration of the RAPT (this will be treated as a withdrawal from the data sharing for the whole pilot), please complete the form below and return it to your child's room leader or class teacher. This will ensure your child is not selected to take part in the trialling of the assessments. In order to withdraw your child, the form must be completed and returned to your nursery **as soon as possible**.

You **can withdraw your child** from data collection for the pilot **at any time up until** the NFER Test Administrator visits the nursery to complete the assessments in the week commencing **3 March 2025**. As the LanguageScreen and RAPT responses will be saved anonymously, we cannot remove your child's responses from the trial once they have completed the assessments.

Further information about the main evaluation can be found [here](#). If you have any queries, please contact us via email at NELIPreschool@nfer.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely,
Kathryn Hurd
Evaluation and Survey Operations Lead
National Foundation for Educational Research

**Pilot of the Renfrew Action Picture Test and LanguageScreen 2025 :
Withdrawal from data processing form for parents**

You only need to complete this form if you **DO NOT** wish your child's assessment data to be shared, stored, and used for this pilot **or if you would prefer** your child's voice not to be recorded for administration of the RAPT (which will be treated as a withdrawal from the data sharing for the whole evaluation).

I **DO NOT** give permission for my child's assessment data that is collected as part of the pilot to be stored or used for research purposes or for my child's voice to be recorded.

Your child's name.....

Child's class.....

Name of nursery

Your full name.....

Your signature.....Date.....