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# Effectiveness Research Trial of Nuffield Early Language Intervention Preschool (NELI Preschool) 2024-2025

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## Privacy notice for nursery staff and nurseries

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### 1 Why are we collecting this data?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out an evaluation (also known as the NELI Preschool effectiveness research trial) of the NELI Preschool intervention delivered by OxEd & Assessment (OxEd).

This evaluation will assess the impact of NELI Preschool on oral language skills for children aged 3 to 4 years old. The delivery of NELI Preschool will take place in the Spring and Summer terms of 2024/25.

This document outlines how staff personal data will be collected from nurseries and nursery staff and processed for the evaluation. There is a separate privacy notice for parents and carers found [here](#), which covers any children’s personal data we would be collecting for the evaluation.

A separate privacy notice covers the data OxEd collects to enable delivery of the NELI Preschool programme and for its own research. This privacy notice can be found [here](#).

NFER is the data controller for this evaluation and makes decisions about what personal data is used and how it is processed in accordance with the objectives of the evaluation set by the EEF. OxEd is the data processor during the evaluation. After the evaluation report is published on the EEF website, NFER will share evaluation data with OxEd, at which point OxEd will become an independent data controller for this data. The evaluation data will also be pseudonymised and transferred to the EEF data archive, at which point the EEF will become the data controller for the archived data. See section 5 for full details of data sharing.

All data gathered during the evaluation will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and will be treated in the strictest confidence by NFER and partners. Your nursery’s key contact and children’s details for the evaluation will be shared securely between OxEd and NFER – so that OxEd and NFER can get in touch with nurseries to provide training access, collect children’s data, provide guidance and programme materials, share surveys and arrange any observations or interviews.

**No nursery, practitioner or child will be named in any report arising from this work, nor will we include any information that might mean that someone else could identify them.**

## **2 What is the lawful basis for processing activities?**

The lawful basis for processing personal data is covered by GDPR Article 6 (1) (f):

*Legitimate interests: the processing is necessary for your (or a third party's) legitimate interests unless there is a good reason to protect the individual's personal data which overrides those legitimate interests.*

A legitimate interest assessment has been undertaken. The trial fulfils one of NFER's core business purposes (undertaking research, evaluation, and information activities). It has broader societal benefits and will contribute to improving the lives of learners by providing evidence about the impact of teaching techniques used in the classroom. Research cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override the data subject's interests.

## **3 How will personal data be obtained?**

OxED will collect expressions of interest (EoI) using a WordPress form from nurseries interested in participating in the trial. The form will collect nursery staff contact details. After receiving this form, OxED will call the relevant staff member at the nursery to discuss their participation in the trial. Once the nursery is deemed eligible, the Headteachers/Nursery Managers of participating nurseries will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (sent by OxED to nurseries as an Adobe Form) which collects the details of the Headteacher/Nursery Manager and member of staff who will become the project lead for the trial. These contact details will then be transferred to NFER via NFER's secure online portal and will be used by OxED and NFER to proceed with the trial.

During the trial, NFER will use a secure online portal to collect participating staff and children's personal data directly from nurseries.

The attendance of nursery staff at the support webinars will be recorded by OxED on Zoom and shared with NFER at nursery level via NFER's secure online portal. The number of staff in each intervention nursery who completed the online training will also be shared with NFER via NFER's secure online portal.

NFER will send NELI Preschool lead and practitioner surveys to relevant staff members. These will be completed on a secure online survey tool, Tivian.

## **4 What personal data is collected for this project?**

For the Headteacher/Nursery Manager and the NELI Preschool lead, the personal data collected in the EoI and MoU are:

- Names

- Contact details (e-mail and telephone number)
- Job role/position in the nursery

In addition, the following data will be collected for each nursery practitioner registered to complete the surveys and online training:

- Names
- Contact details (e-mail and telephone number)
- Job role/position in the nursery
- Their highest qualification level

The NELI Preschool lead in each setting will be asked to complete a survey at the beginning and at the end of the trial period. They will be asked about usual practice in their setting, their setting context and characteristics and, in the case of treatment settings, their experience of delivering the intervention. In addition, nursery practitioners will be asked to complete an online survey about their confidence and motivation in supporting early language development (at the beginning and end of the trial). Finally, one year after the trial ends, the NELI Preschool lead from intervention settings will also be asked to complete an online survey to give their views about the longer-term impact of the programme.

A small number of settings will be invited to facilitate a visit from an NFER researcher involving practitioner interviews and observations of session delivery and usual practice. These data collection activities will cover the context around and experience of delivering the NELI Preschool programme.

Some of the training webinars in which practitioners actively participate will also be observed by an NFER researcher.

## 5 Who will personal data be shared with?

The details of the key project contact and the headteacher or nursery manager at the nursery will be collected via the EoI and MoU by OxEd. OxEd will share this data with NFER via a secure data portal.

Contact details shared on the EoI or MoU may be shared with the funders of this project, to enable them to check if settings taking part in this project have also signed up for other programmes of support that they are funding. Stronger Practice Hubs may contact settings to let them know about support available through the Hub.

Practitioner personal data for the trial will be collected directly from nurseries by OxEd via the MoU. OxEd will share this data with NFER via a secure data portal. NFER will ask nurseries to confirm that the named practitioners are still participating before the training begins. Should any of these details change then nurseries will share updated contact details with NFER, who will then share the data with OxEd so that they can communicate directly with practitioners about the training sessions.

OxEd will share practitioner training attendance data with NFER. Practitioners’ training attendance data at a nursery level will be linked to the child-level data collected as part of this trial to understand how important training attendance is for child outcomes. Additionally, specific variables from the practitioner surveys covering self-reported confidence and motivation in supporting early language development will be included in the impact analysis, which will be linked to the child-level dataset.

The online survey data is collected via Tivian which stores survey responses in Azure and AWS data centre infrastructure in the European Union. Tivian’s privacy notice is available **here**.

After the main EEF report is published (likely to be in March 2026), NFER will share the following data with OxEd, which will enable OxEd to link it with the data they hold and undertake their own research to publish findings from the trial in scientific journals. At this point, OxEd will become an independent data controller.

- Children’s personal data (except the data collected from the NPD and audio recordings from RAPT assessments).
- Close-ended survey responses from the practitioner surveys covering self-reported confidence and motivation in supporting early language development. This will include nursery ID and, practitioner role and practitioner qualification level.
- Anonymised data from close-ended responses from the NELI Preschool lead surveys. This will not include any personal, nursery or contextual data that could make matching or identification possible.

Three months after the publication of the final evaluation report (currently planned for June 2027), pseudonymised matched child-level data will be added to the EEF archive, which will include practitioner’s training attendance at a nursery level and specific variables from the practitioner surveys covering self-reported confidence and motivation in supporting early language development. At this point, the EEF becomes the data controller and is responsible for taking decisions about the means and purposes of processing. The EEF archive is managed by FFT Education on behalf of the EEF and hosted by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Further information is available in the [privacy notice for the EEF archive](#).

Staff/Teacher interview data and notes from the observations will not be shared with the EEF or archived. Open-response survey questions and data from the NELI Preschool lead surveys will likewise not be shared or archived.

## 6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

NFER only stores personal data in the UK. When we use Tivian to administer online surveys, data is stored in the EU; however, no personal data will be transferred outside of the EEA.

## 7 How long will personal data be retained?

NFER will delete any personal data collected as part of this evaluation within one year of publication of the final report (currently planned to be June 2027). This deletion process is currently

planned for June 2028. Recording and digitalised transcriptions of interviews will be deleted as soon as the notes are finalised.

## 8 Can I stop my personal data being used?

NFER handles personal data in accordance with the rights given to individuals under data protection legislation. If at any time you wish us to withdraw your data collected during this study or correct errors in it, please contact the Project Leader, Palak Roy, by email at [NELIPreschool@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:NELIPreschool@nfer.ac.uk). NFER will still use the personal data you have provided up to the point you wish to withdraw unless you tell us otherwise.

In certain circumstances, data subjects have the right to restrict or object to processing. They also have the right to make a subject access request to see all the information held about them. NFER will cooperate fully when a subject access request (SAR) is made of the data controller. To exercise these rights, please contact our Compliance Officer: [compliance@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:compliance@nfer.ac.uk)

## 9 Who can I contact about this project?

NFER is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. If you have any queries about this trial, please contact the Project Leader, Palak Roy, by email at [NELIPreschool@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:NELIPreschool@nfer.ac.uk).

If you have a concern about the way this trial processes personal data, we request that you raise your concern with us in the first instance (see details above). If you remain dissatisfied, you can contact the Information Commissioner’s Office, the body responsible for enforcing data protection legislation in the UK, at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Further information on this trial and all privacy notices can be found [here](#).

## 10 Last updated

We keep this privacy notice under review to make sure it is up to date and accurate. Any changes will be noted. The date when this privacy notice was last updated is shown in the footer at the bottom of this document.

**August 2024: This change clarifies additional personal data that is being collected.**

**January 2025: The latest change updates the name and privacy notice of the online survey provider.**