

What is the TEDS Speech Fluency Study?

We are inviting you to take part in our Speech Fluency Study. The information below should help you understand why this study is being done and what it will involve.

What is it about?

As you know, the overall aim of TEDS is to look at children's growth and development and begin to answer some of the questions about how genes and environment interact to influence the way we are. We are interested in many aspects of development, from health, emotions and behaviour to children's skills in language and thinking.

Many of you have helped us by telling us about your children's language and speech when they were younger. We are interested in the way children talk and how they feel about their speech now that they are a little older so we would like to ask them a set of questions about this. We would also like to ask you a few questions about your twins' speech as well.

The questions ask about how often certain behaviours and feelings occur when a person is speaking. The questions refer to behaviours and feelings in everyday speech situations. Please keep the rating scale enclosed with this letter, if you and your children participate in the study they will need to refer to it when responding to the questions. Some of the behaviours and feelings we ask about are not particularly usual and the items may surprise you, but others are more common. There are no right or wrong answers - we would just like your children to report how often they behave in a certain way or experience certain feelings when speaking.

What does taking part involve?

It would involve a short phone call, lasting approximately 30 minutes where we ask your twins some questions. We would also like to ask you some brief questions about your children's speech fluency and about what, if any, speech therapy they have received.

What happens to the findings of the research study?

Your children's results will be kept strictly confidential. The results will be analysed and reports written for scientific journals. We hope that our work will lead us to a better understanding of how all children develop. If we understand children's development better, it will become easier to help other children who are experiencing difficulties and perhaps in some cases, prevent them in the first place.

We would like to help. What do we do next?

Please complete the enclosed consent form which shows that you agree that you may take part. We have enclosed a freepost return envelope for the form.

Do we have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do take part, you are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

Thank you very much for your help. If you have any questions or comments please call us on **FREEPHONE 0800 317029**