



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

Privacy notice for parents and carers

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 programme delivered by OxEd & Assessment (OxEd).

This effectiveness research trial 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 children’s personal data will be collected and processed as part of the research trial. Your child’s data will be treated with the strictest confidence and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. **We will not use your child’s name in any report arising from the research.**

There is a separate privacy notice for nursery staff and nurseries found [here](#), which covers any staff personal data that we would be collecting as part of this 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.

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 evaluation 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 NFER will ensure your child's data is protected at all times.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

NFER will collect children's personal data via a pupil data form. This data form will be completed by the nursery practitioners and shared with NFER via NFER's secure online portal. NFER will share this data with OxEd via OxEd's LanguageScreen software or via NFER's secure online portal.

OxEd and NFER will access children's LanguageScreen scores via OxEd's [LanguageScreen](#) software. The assessment will be administered by practitioners (at baseline) and by NFER's Test Administrators (in-person at endline). NFER's Test Administrators will also administer Renfrew Action Picture Test (RAPT) paper assessments (in-person at endline).

NFER will collect whether children were selected for the NELI targeted intervention and their attendance at NELI Preschool sessions via an online session delivery register, completed by nursery practitioners using NFER's secure online portal.

NFER will collect children's Early Year Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) from the Department for Education's (DfE) National Pupil Database (NPD).

A small number of settings will receive a visit from an NFER researcher to observe delivery of the NELI Preschool sessions. Children will be observed as part of this, but no further personal data will be collected.

4 What personal data is collected for this project?

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

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Class (if applicable)
- Gender
- Local Authority (LA) of home
- English as a Second Language (EAL) status (as perceived by nursery staff)

- Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) status
- Attendance patterns at the nursery
- RAPT data and scores (at endpoint)
- LanguageScreen assessment scores (at baseline and endpoint)
- EYFSP

In addition to this, for those in *intervention settings*, the following additional personal data will be collected:

- Whether or not they were selected for the NELI targeted intervention
- Attendance at each of the NELI Preschool sessions

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

No individual will be named in any report for this project.

Personal data collected by NFER via the pupil data form will be shared with OxEd using OxEd’s LanguageScreen software. Personal data collected by OxEd will be shared with NFER using OxEd’s LanguageScreen software.

NFER will share children’s personal data with the DfE’s NPD team in order for their data to be matched to the EYFSP.

After the main evaluation report is published on the EEF website (likely to be in March 2026), NFER will share children’s personal data (except the data collected from the NPD) with OxEd via NFER’s secure online portal, which will enable OxEd to link it with the data they hold and undertake their own research to publish findings from the research trial in scientific journals. At this point, OxEd will become an independent data controller. This is covered under OxEd’s privacy notice, which is found [here](#).

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 is managed by FFT Education on behalf of the EEF and hosted by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). This will enable the EEF and other research teams to use the pseudonymised data as part of subsequent research through the ONS Approved Researcher Scheme. At this point, the EEF becomes the data controller and is responsible for taking decisions about the means and purposes of processing. For further information about the EEF archive and how the EEF processes and uses your data, see the [privacy notice](#) for the EEF archive.

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

No child’s personal data is stored or transferred outside of the UK.

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 for June 2027). This deletion process is currently planned for June 2028.

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 child’s data collected during this study or correct errors in it, please contact the Project Leader at NFER, Palak Roy, by email at 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 to them as data controller. To exercise these rights, please contact our Compliance Officer: 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 evaluation, contact the Project Leader at NFER, Palak Roy, by email at NELIPreschool@nfer.ac.uk.

If you have a concern about the way this evaluation 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 evaluation 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.