

# How to...



## Plan your research

Meet your objectives

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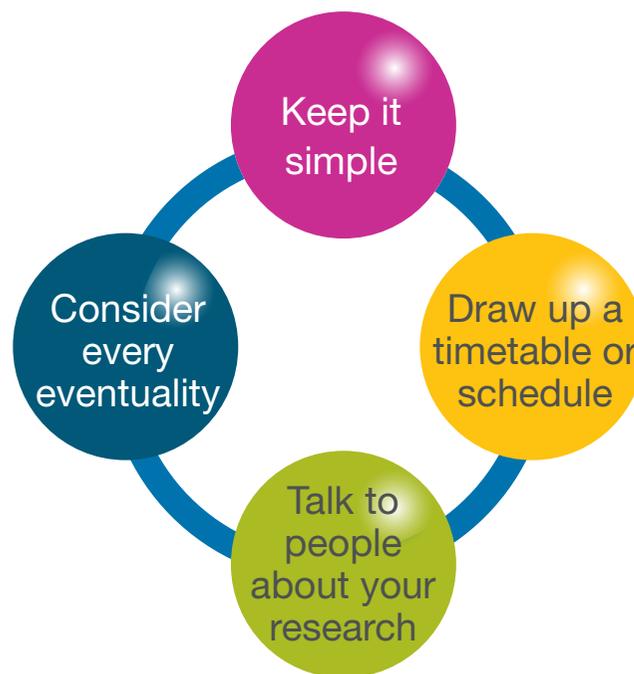


**Support:** Have you considered what support you may need? This can include training in how to use certain methods or software, but it can also be emotional support from friends and families. Some research projects (as part of academic studies) may require more specialist support from expert mentors or supervisors.

**Ethical considerations:** You need to consider the ethics of your research from the outset and throughout your project

**Consider keeping a record of your research project:** Keep detailed notes about what you have done, ideas, contacts and decisions you have made. These can be helpful later on when you come to write up your research. Some people find it useful to keep a more reflective research diary in which you write down your thoughts and feelings about the project. This may increase the time commitment involved in your research though, but can help you identify any underlying assumptions which you might not have been aware of up to that point.

## Remember



## Other useful resources

We hope that this short guide to planning your research has whetted your appetite for carrying out your own research. NFER has published a series of 'How to' guides for practitioners who want to carry out their own research, helping you put your ideas into practice. NFER have books and training days available, as well as free guidance on topics to research and methods of research. Why not get recognition for your achievements in research in your school, college or early years setting by applying for the NFER Research Mark? Visit [www.nfer.ac.uk/ris](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/ris) for more information.

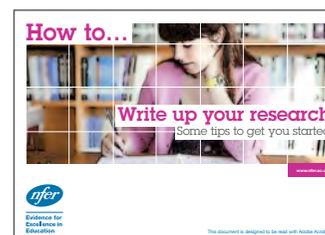
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'How to' Guides



The NFER 'How to' guides are a quick and easy way to digest different aspects of research.

Written by NFER researchers, these guides will help practitioners run research projects in education. From definitions and benefits, through to potential pitfalls, they will ensure the research is based on professional guidance.



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This guide was published in 2013 and was correct at the time of publication. Users are encouraged to check for the latest advice on data protection with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation. For further information please visit the [ICO website](http://ico.org.uk).



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