

Evaluation of Early Talk Boost (2025-26): Privacy notice for training staff

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 of the Early Talk Boost (ETB) intervention, which was developed by Speech and Language UK. The evaluation is a randomised control trial (RCT) and aims to ascertain the impact of the programme on the participating children's language skills and development and will take place over the course of the 2025-26 academic year.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is funding this research. NFER is the data controller for the evaluation and will make decisions about how and what personal data is used for it. Further information about the project and privacy notices for all participants are available [here](#).

This privacy notice covers the personal data of the training staff employed by Speech and Language UK that will be processed by NFER for the purpose of the evaluation. Speech and Language UK are the data controller for any personal data processed for employment purposes.

All data will be treated with the strictest confidence, and you will not be identified in any report arising from the research.

2 What is the legal basis for processing activities?

The legal 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. Our legitimate interest in processing personal data for this trial is to evaluate the ETB intervention. The evaluation fulfils one of NFER's core business purposes (undertaking research, evaluation and information activities) and is therefore in our legitimate interest. It has broader societal benefits and will contribute to improving children's lives by providing evidence about how early years settings can boost children's language skills and can best support their development. Research cannot be done without processing personal data, but NFER will ensure your rights are respected at all times.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

Personal data will be collected directly from participating training staff by Speech and Language UK and shared with NFER via a secure link.

NFER will also carry out remote observations and focus groups.

4 What personal data is being collected for this project?

The following personal data will be collected for the training staff delivering the ETB training for the purpose of the trial:

- Name
- Contact details (e-mail and telephone number)

An NFER researcher will observe two ETB training sessions. The researcher will notify the training staff conducting the session in advance of the observation occurring. The observation will focus on the nature of the training and any questions or feedback from participating practitioners. No personal data will be collected.

In addition, all training staff will be asked to participate in two remote focus groups conducted by an NFER researcher via Microsoft Teams. Participants will be asked about the training (including the support sessions), whether it is going as intended, how the practitioners are responding to it and any reflections on the insights practitioners have shared – particularly in terms of challenges and facilitators for implementation. With participants' agreement, the focus groups will be video recorded and digitally transcribed using Microsoft Teams for note-taking purposes.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

Speech and Language UK will share the personal data of training staff with NFER for the purpose of evaluation activities (see sections 3 and 4). NFER may share this personal data back with Speech and Language UK where necessary for evaluation and/or intervention delivery purposes.

The remote focus groups will be conducted via Microsoft Teams.

No identifiable data collected during the observations and focus groups will be shared outside the NFER research team.

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

No, NFER only stores personal data in the UK.

7 How long will personal data be retained?

NFER will delete any personal data after one year from the publication of the final report. The deletion process is currently planned for May 2028. Recordings and digitalised transcriptions of interviews and assessments will be deleted as soon as notes and responses are finalised.

8 What are my rights with respect to personal data?

NFER handles personal data in accordance with the rights given to individual under data protection legislation. Under certain circumstances data subjects have the right:

- to request access to information that is held about them (a data subject access request).
- to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.
- to request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing.
- to restrict processing of personal data (for example, permitting its storage but no further processing).
- to object to processing
- to data portability
- not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect.

We may need to request specific information from you to help us confirm your identity and ensure your right to access the information (or to exercise any of your other rights). This helps us ensure that personal information is not disclosed to any person who has no right to receive it.

Although we value your participation in this evaluation and its contribution to important findings, you can withdraw from the evaluation activities at any time. If you withdraw, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to that point in our analysis. Please note that withdrawing your data will not be possible once data analysis has commenced (from September 2026). If at any time you wish to withdraw from the evaluation activities, or withdraw your data or correct errors in it, please contact: ETBTrial@nfer.ac.uk.

9 Who can I contact about this project?

Any queries about the day-to-day management of the data processing outlined in this privacy notice, please contact the project team at ETBTrial@nfer.ac.uk.

If you have concerns about the way NFER processes personal data, please raise your concern by contacting the Compliance Officer: compliance@nfer.ac.uk.

If you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to lodge a complaint about data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office, the body responsible for enforcing data protection legislation in the UK, at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

10 Updates

We keep our privacy notice under regular review to make sure it is up to date and accurate; any changes will be recorded. We recommend that you revisit this information from time to time. The date when this privacy notice was last updated is shown in the footer at the bottom of this document.