



School of Social Sciences

Overview of the Education Endowment Foundation Project Trial

We are interested in talking to schools who may be interested in participating in a national evaluation trial of a set of teaching resources developed with Coventry University.

The project is a **randomised, controlled trial** of children in **Year 1 classrooms**, and the trial will begin in **Autumn 2018**.

Schools who participate will be allocated to one of three intervention groups by the York Trials Unit (who are our independent evaluators for the trial).

- Those with staff trained to run an ICT based reading programme of small group reading activities
- Those with staff trained to run a non-ICT based version of the programme of small group reading activities
- Those continuing with their normal daily curriculum and any small group interventions that they would run in any case (the control schools).

The interventions include the following key elements:

- they are balanced reading programmes and contain activities in three basic areas
 - decoding (e.g. phonics, including blending, letter sounds, decoding, sight words)
 - fluency (e.g. reading prose, reading with proper intonation)
 - comprehension (e.g. summarising, comprehension monitoring, prediction, etc)
- they are delivered by school staff (e.g. TAs, teachers, SENCOs etc) who are fully trained and supported by local teams
- they are delivered to small groups of 3-5 children at a time
- they are delivered in 15 min sessions, 4 times a week to each group, for 20 weeks over one academic year

What do we ask of you?

1. Identify a nominated member of staff (the project 'champion') to act as the point of contact and to take ownership of the running of the intervention in school
2. Per participating Yr 1 class (approx 30 children), each school will need to commit the time of two members of school staff (this could be any member of school staff, from TAs to senior management) to deliver the intervention. Each staff member will need to deliver the intervention to 3 or 4 groups at day (i.e. about 1 hour a day) 4 times a week for 20 weeks over one academic year
3. All staff delivering the intervention need to be released for 1.5 days of training in Oct 2018
4. Please allow pre & post-tests (literacy assessments) to be carried out with participating children, and supply UPNs of participating children to York Trials Unit
5. The EEF require that schools make a notional £200 contribution to the costs of having staff trained and supported in the intervention. However, in the event of schools being allocated to the control group, we would make a payment of £500 to the school to compensate for the inconvenience of participating in the pre and post testing of pupils.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I ask to be allocated to a particular intervention group.

No – you will be randomly allocated to one of the groups by York Trials Unit.

We don't have the computer resources to support the ICT arm of the trial. Does this mean we cannot take part?

You can still take part, York will just randomly allocate you to either the control or the non-ICT arm of the trial.

Do all the children in Year 1 have to take part?

No. If you cannot support running the groups with all the Year 1 children, it is OK for you to only run it with a single class or with a subset of pupils. However, York Trials Unit will need to randomly select either the class or subset of pupils who will take part. In any case only one class from each school will be asked to participate in the pre- and post test assessment. Please note that it will *not* be possible for you to select only underachieving readers to take part.

We currently use a specific literacy programme. Is this going to be a problem?

No. The intervention will be run as *additional* to normal literacy provision, rather than as an alternative to it.

Does the intervention work?

The intervention we will train you on has been evaluated in [a previous EEF RCT](#) and was found to be beneficial. The purpose of this trial is to see if it is possible to successfully 'scale up' the training and support for schools and still find the same benefits.

Can we adapt the programme of activities?

We will train you on the version of the programme that was previously shown to be effective. We would encourage you to adhere to the training model as far as possible, but we also accept that school may need to be flexible in their approach to delivery depending on context. We would ask that you make us aware if you have to adapt the version of the intervention significantly to make it work in your school context