

Impact evaluation of the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI)

1. Why are you receiving this Information Sheet?

You are receiving this Information Sheet because your school has agreed to receive information about the impact evaluation of the NELI Programme.

We are inviting schools who are participating in the NELI programme to help us understand the impact of the programme on children’s language skills by agreeing to participate in this independent impact evaluation by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). Schools that help us in this way will specifically contribute to the evidence base about the impact of NELI, and will receive a thank you payment of up to £250 for their contribution towards the impact evaluation.

2. Which schools can take part in NELI impact evaluation?

Schools that meet all the following criteria can take part:

- Schools participating in NELI Programme in the 2021/2022 academic year
- Schools who completed the initial NELI LanguageScreen assessment for the vast majority of pupils in Reception class(es) before their NELI programme delivery started. (*The assessment may not have been completed for a very small number of pupils, for example, pupils who were absent on the day of the assessment. Schools to which this applies can still take part in the NELI impact evaluation.*)

3. What will schools need to do for NELI impact evaluation?

Timeline and outline of key activities required:

May 2022 – July 2022	Headteacher signs a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to commit to the impact evaluation and confirm they are happy for NFER to receive their pupils’ LanguageScreen data. In the MoU, school will also need to share the NELI Lead’s contact details and school level information required for the impact evaluation.
June 2022 – July 2022	Share parent letter with all parents of pupils in Reception class(es) and share any evaluation withdrawal requests with Oxford Education and Assessment Ltd (OxEd and Assessment Ltd).
June 2022 – July 2022	<p>NELI Lead indicates which pupils are receiving NELI on the LanguageScreen website by clicking on the pupil and then ‘Record an intervention’.</p> <p>Complete a final LanguageScreen assessment at the end of this summer term for all pupils who were initially assessed ahead of delivering the programme (i.e. both pupils who received NELI and those who did not).</p> <p>Ensure all LanguageScreen assessment data from the app has fully uploaded to the OxEd and Assessment Ltd server.</p> <p>NELI Lead completes the final 3 minute TeachNELI Delivery survey which will be available from 4th to 22nd of July.</p>

4. Who decides what data will be shared?

The school's Headteacher will need to give permission for your school to sign up to being a NELI impact evaluation school.

Parents/ guardians have the right to withdraw their child from data processing for this impact evaluation. They can do so by using the withdrawal portion of the parent letter that will be provided by NFER and distributed by schools. After distributing the parent letter, schools should give parents one week to return any withdrawal slips. If the school receives any withdrawal slips, they should email OxEd and Assessment Ltd. on support@teachneli.org to confirm the number of withdrawals received. OxEd and Assessment will then provide schools with information on how to ensure children who withdrew from data processing for this impact evaluation are not included in the evaluation.

5. What are the benefits for my school?

By becoming a NELI impact evaluation school, **your school will help to strengthen the evidence relating to the impact of the NELI programme on reception pupils' language skills. It will help us understand the impact of the programme when delivered at national scale** and how best to implement the similar programmes in the future. The evaluation report will be publically available on the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) website.

Schools that participate in the impact evaluation and complete the project requirements will receive a thank you payment of up to £250 for their contribution to the evaluation.

6. How does my school sign up?

To sign up, please complete and submit the MoU we have provided using the secure portal details we have shared with you. Once we have received your MoU, we will be in touch with the NELI lead regarding the next steps for this evaluation.

7. Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any queries on the impact evaluation please contact NFER on ImpactNELI@nfer.ac.uk

Further information on the evaluation and a link to the impact evaluation privacy notice can also be found at: <https://nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/impact-evaluation-of-the-nuffield-early-language-intervention/>

8. About the evaluation

The EEF has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to independently evaluate the impact of the NELI Programme during the second year of the delivery. We are now approaching schools that are taking part in the NELI Programme in 2021 – 2022 to invite them to participate in the impact evaluation.

Schools' contributions are vital for the successful impact evaluation of the NELI Programme, which in turn will play a pivotal role in strengthening the evidence on how to best implement similar programmes at scale in the future, and on the impact the intervention can have on pupils' learning outcomes.