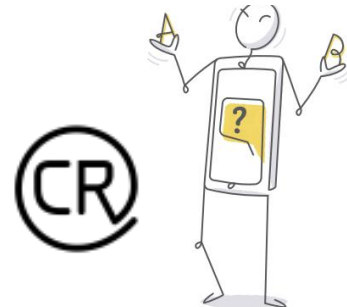




10.1.2024

## RESEARCH NOTIFICATION – PARENTS/GUARDIANS



### 1. Interaction, Learning and Development (VUOKKO) Follow-up: Invite to participate in a study

**You and your child are hereby cordially invited in VUOKKO follow-up study.** VUOKKO follow-up study began in the city of Jyväskylä in fall 2015, taking place in the day care center groups of 2–3-year-old children (born in the year 2013). The follow-up continued in the day care center groups when the children were 5–6-year-old and in school during grades 1 to 3. During academic years 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 the children are on grades 4 and 5. VUOKKO follow-up study continues during these years with funding from the CRITICAL-research project.

This project has received funding from the Strategic Research Council (STN), which operates in connection with the Research Council of Finland as part of Information literacy and evidence-informed decision-making (LITERACY) program (Project no. 335625 and no. 335727).

In academic years 2023–2025 the children are on 4th and 5th grade, during which the focus is on development of children's critical reading skills. Critical reading encompasses for example the skills to comprehend, compare, and analyze texts and graphs. We are interested in the level of children's skills at this age and also how critical reading skills could be best supported at home and school. Hence, we invite also the children's guardians and the classroom teachers to participate in the study.

You and your child are invited to the study because some of your child's classmates have been part of the VUOKKO follow-up in some of the previous phases. We invite all previously participated children and their classmates to take part on the study.

This research notification describes the study and related participation. The privacy notice provides information on the processing of your personal data, and it can be found in the VUOKKO website (<https://r.jyu.fi/en/VUOKKO>).

The information sheet you received from school includes also research notification for your child. We kindly ask you to go through the notification together with your child. The child's consent to participate in the study is confirmed before the assessments at school and the child signs their own consent.

The research notification is available in Finnish, English, and with simplified Finnish. Participating in the study requires that you understand the research notification and the contents of the consent form in one of these languages.

Approximately 800–900 children and their guardians who have previously participated in the follow-up and approximately 50 teachers will take part in the study.

This is a follow-up study. You may be contacted later unless you cancel your consent for participation in this study.

## 2. Voluntariness

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate in the study, stop participating or cancel your previously given consent, without stating any reason for this and at any time during the study. This will have no negative consequences to you or your child. If you stop participating in the study or if you cancel your consent, the personal data, samples and other information collected on you up to that point will be used as part of the research material as far as it is necessary in order to ensure relevant research outcomes.

Your child will not be put in any unequal position within the school, irrespective of their willingness regarding participation in the study. Together with the teacher it is pondered how this will best be realized.

## 3. Progress of the study

**VUOKKO assessments during the years 2024–2025 (grades 4 and 5) includes the following:**

### Child's skill assessments

**In grade 4 spring** (March–April 2024), the children ( $n = 800\text{--}900$ ) will complete research tasks on reading comprehension, reading and math fluency, and evaluate their attitudes towards reading and math. The tasks will be completed in children's own classroom during three 45-minute lessons as a part of regular school day. The assessment will be completed by trained researchers, and the tasks are similar to tasks that children would normally complete as part of their schoolwork.

**In grade 5 spring** (March–April 2025), the children ( $n = 800\text{--}900$ ) will complete critical online reading test, math word problems task, and graph reading task. In addition, they respond to a short questionnaire. The tasks will be completed in children's own classroom during three 45-minute lessons as a part of regular school day. The assessment will be completed by trained researchers

**In grade 4 spring**, approximately 300 children are additionally invited to complete **a short set of literacy tasks individually** together with a trained researcher. Individual tasks include tasks which would not be possible to complete in the group format, for example, reading aloud or vocabulary. Individual test situation is approximately 30 minutes long, and it will be conducted during a regular day at school. Your child is invited to individual assessments, if they participated in individual assessments in grade 3.

The child's consent to participate in the study is confirmed before the assessments at school and the child signs their own consent.

All the skill assessments are in Finnish.

### Classroom observations and video recordings

In the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade spring, in some of the participating classrooms, we will complete an observation on the interaction between the teacher and the children, and on instructional practices using video recording. In the video recordings, individual children are not followed but the aim is to follow the whole classroom and the teacher during regular classroom situations. If your child's

classroom participates in the observations, **we will video record two typical lessons**, which include instruction on reading comprehension. The teacher may choose, which lessons will be recorded. These lessons may include, but are not limited to, environmental studies or Finnish lessons. The recording will be conducted during a regular day in the classroom and does not require any special preparations from teacher or children. Observations will take place during February–April in both years. Timetable for the observations will be negotiated with the teacher. We are asking for your consent for your child to be present during the observation in the classroom with the other children.

In addition to classroom observations, the teacher responds yearly to **questionnaires concerning your child and classroom**. Teachers are asked about their own thoughts and what kind of teaching practices they have with the children in their classroom.

### **Parental questionnaires**

Once a year, we ask you to respond to a **questionnaire** related to your family and the child's background information.

## **4. Possible benefits from the study**

Participation in the study benefits the research on learning and interaction on a large scale, since longitudinal follow-up enables understanding of different learning paths and the individual and environmental factors affecting them. This is true for critical reading, too. Critical reading is one of the key skills with which children and adolescents can function in knowledge society and can separate misinformation and disinformation from right and reliable information. There are no direct benefits of the participation for the participant. However, feedback of the results from the classroom assessments will be given to parents and the teacher. This information may, for example, help the teacher to plan their instruction.

## **5. Possible risks, harm, and inconvenience caused by the study as well as preparing for these**

There are no known risks, harm, or inconvenience to those who take part in the study.

## **6. Study-related costs and compensations to the subject as well as research funding**

No monetary rewards will be paid, but the child will receive a small gift for their participation in the study, for example a reflector, a pencil, or a small sweet.

The project is funded by Strategic Research Council (STN), which operates in connection with the Research Council of Finland as part of Information literacy and evidence-informed decision-making (LITERACY) program (Project no. 335625 and no. 335727).

## **7. Informing about research results and research outcomes**

Results will be reported in scientific publications, theses, and in conference and seminar presentations. We will also convey information of the results in social media, teachers' in-service training, and, for decision makers, via policy briefs. The results will also be utilized in the instruction at the university. Research data will always be reported in a way that individual teachers, children, or guardians cannot be identified. Video data will not be shared and it will never be presented publically. Written dialogues can be used as examples in publications, but they will be anonymized and children or teachers cannot be identified from the passages.

The teachers will receive results from the tasks completed in the classroom considering the children in their own classroom after data collection both in spring 2024 and 2025. The teacher may use the results as a part of evaluation and planning of instruction.

The teacher is asked to convey the information concerning your child's results to you. Since the teacher knows your child better than us researchers, they are able to tell of the results in relation to child's other skills and activities in the classroom. If you also wish to discuss your child's results with us, you have a possibility to book a calling time.

In grade 5, we will provide feedback of the critical reading task and graph reading task in the classroom so that the children will receive the feedback by themselves, too. The feedback will be provided jointly in a group situation.

## 8. Insurance coverage for research subjects

The University of Jyväskylä has insurances for its activities and research subjects.

In the case of research conducted remotely, the insurance of the University of Jyväskylä compensates only for damage that is directly related to the assigned research task and that has occurred during the actual guided research task. The insurance does not cover accidents that occur during breaks.

The set of insurance includes a malpractice insurance, an operational liability insurance, and an optional insurance against accidents. During the research activities, the subjects are covered by the insurance for accidents, damages and injuries inflicted by an external cause. The accident insurance is valid during measurements and on trips integrally connected to them.

## 9. Contact person for further information

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