



INFORMATION SHEET FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

28.8.2026

1. Invitation to participate in research

We invite you to participate in a research project called *IDEAL – Individual differences in early foreign language learning* where we study early English language teaching and learning. We are interested in how the pupils' English skills and affective factors regarding language learning (self-concept, language attitudes and self-efficacy) develop from the 1st grade to the 3rd grade and what factors are connected to that development.

This information sheet describes the research and what participating in it means for you. The processing of personal data is detailed in the Privacy notice.

You are invited to participate because your child is already participating the research. We invite all guardians of the 55 pupils participating in the research.

2. Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate in the study, withdraw from the study or withdraw your consent at any time, without stating a reason. This will have no negative consequences for you.

If you decide to stop participating in the study or withdraw your consent, any personal data or other information collected to that point may still be used in the research if needed to ensure reliable results.

3. Progress of the study

Parents will be interviewed about their child's early language education during the school year 2026–2027. The interviews will take place at an agreed-upon time and location, either in person or via Teams. The interviews will be recorded.

The research project also collects data from your child and their teacher. In research publications this data can be connected to the interviews from the guardians. This enables a wider examination of factors influencing the child's English language learning.

4. Possible benefits from the study

This research aims to advance early foreign language education and its pedagogical practices. By participating in the research, guardians can help shape the development of early foreign language

education and contribute information that can be used to support the work of schools and teachers. Early foreign language education began in all schools in Finland in 2020 and developing methods for it is important from a societal point of view.

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

Participating in the research is expected to yield no risks, harm or discomfort for the participants.

6. Insurance coverage for research participants

The University of Jyväskylä has insurance for its activities and research participants. The participants are covered for accidents, damages and injuries inflicted due to an external cause. The accident insurance is valid during research activities and trips directly related to them.

If research is conducted remotely, the insurance of the University of Jyväskylä covers only damage directly related to the research task which has occurred during the guided research task. The insurance does not cover accidents that occur during breaks. The insurance of the University of Jyväskylä is not valid in the case of research conducted remotely if a participant's municipality of residence is not in Finland.

7. Compensation for participation and reimbursement of study-related costs

You will receive a small university PR gift for participating in the research.

8. Funding of the study

The research is funded by external funding from the University of Jyväskylä. The research is funded by academic research funding by the Emil Aaltonen foundation.

The funder has not been involved in the design of the study, nor does it have any influence over data collection and analysis, publication decisions, or manuscript preparation.

9. Conflicts of Interests

The study and the researchers have no conflicts of interest that could affect the study's independence.

10. Informing about research results and research outcomes

The research results will be presented in scientific conferences and seminars as well as published in research reports, theses and in scientific and professional journals and magazines aimed at a wider audience. The results are also used in the pre-service and in-service training for teachers.

The research participants cannot be identified from the publications or the published results. Data excerpts shown in presentations and publications are chosen so that individual participants cannot be identified from them. The audio recordings are never presented. The data are stored securely and used only for research purposes.

You can follow the progress of the research project on our website <http://r.jyu.fi/IDEAL>.

11. The use of research data after the study is finished

After the study is finished, the research data will be anonymised, which means that any information enabling personal identification is deleted. The Privacy notice includes further information. The anonymised research data will remain in the research team's possession and can be used for other scientific purposes.

12. Contact person for further information

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