

INFORMATION SHEET: REACH Primary



- REACH Primary is an intervention designed to improve the reading skills of pupils in Year 3. It is based on a programme called REACH, which in a previous EEF trial was shown to have positive impacts on secondary school pupils reading skills.
- REACH Primary is for the weakest readers in Year 3.
- It is delivered by Teaching Assistants (TAs) trained by researchers from the University of Leeds and comprises 60 x 30 minute individual support sessions per pupil.
- The methods used in REACH Primary are aligned with the 'Simple View of Reading' (Gough & Tunmer, 1986) and as such target word recognition and decoding skills alongside oral language comprehension.
- The teaching approaches are based on established techniques derived from 'Reading Intervention' (Hatcher, Hulme & Ellis, 1994) and the 'York Reading for Meaning Project' (Clarke et al. 2013).

BACKGROUND

80 large primary schools (with at least two classes in Year 3) from the North East, Yorkshire and Humber, Greater Manchester, and Lincolnshire regions of England will be recruited to the REACH Primary evaluation. Schools will identify the 10 weakest readers who will be starting Year 3 in September 2019. 40 schools will be randomly allocated to the intervention group and 40 to the control group.

(A) INTERVENTION GROUP

- 2 TAs from each school will complete 2 days of initial face-to-face training, 1 day of top-up training, 5 short online seminars, and a series of training tasks. A member of the SLT will attend the morning of the first training day.
- TAs will each work with 5 students and provide 3 x 30 minute individual support sessions every week for 20 weeks (7.5 hours of TA delivery per week).
- TAs will also require some preparation time (based on 5 students, 1.5 hours per week) and a tablet computer to use during the sessions.
- 2 sessions per week target word recognition and decoding skills and the third focuses on oral language comprehension.
- Each school will receive a set of REACH teaching materials. In addition they will need a 'starter book box' which corresponds to Hatcher grading levels 1-30. Schools will be required to contribute £300 to cover the cost of this (that they keep).

(B) CONTROL GROUP

These pupils will not be participating in the REACH intervention, but schools will receive £500 for providing baseline data and for organising the evaluation team to come in and collect post test data on the chosen pupils.

EVALUATION



- SHU is independently evaluating this programme.
- The evaluation aims to identify what effect REACH has on children's reading skills and their confidence. The evaluation is not an assessment of individual pupils or schools but is about understanding how effective the programme is overall.
- As part of the evaluation *all schools* will be asked to provide the names of the TAs and baseline data from national tests on the selected pupils.
- In June and July 2020 pupils will also need to complete:
 - A 30 minute digital reading test.
 - A 30 minute face-to-face assessment of word recognition and decoding and language comprehension.
- It's important that you only agree to take part, if you are committed to taking part in either of the two groups and are prepared to undertake all of the related evaluation activities.



School case study visits

As part of the evaluation your school may be chosen as a case-study. The case study will be used to understand your experiences of the intervention.

Outputs: The evaluation report will be published on the EEF website and the findings may also be disseminated at educational research conferences and in academic or professional journals. No individuals or school will be named in reporting.

Ethics/Data Protection

The data we collect will be stored confidentially and securely on password protected computers, and will be held in compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) guidelines. The study has been approved by SHU and UoL ethics committees. Participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the study. For more information please see the [fair-processing notice](#).

If you require further information about the delivery please contact:

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Or for the evaluation please contact:

Dr Martin Culliney or Dr Josephine Booth at SHU on 0114 225 6072 OR 0114 225 3785 or email REACH@SHU.ac.uk.

If you would like to be part of the REACH Primary project contact Dr Paula Clarke - 0113 3439410 or email p.j.clarke@leeds.ac.uk