

## Aston Literacy Project



Dear Parents and Carers,

[Name of school] has kindly agreed to participate in the Aston Literacy Project (ALP). ALP is a large-scale research project conducted by Aston University and involves 15 schools in the Birmingham area. Our aim is to find out what the most important skills are for learning to read, and what difficulties cause some children to struggle with reading. In order to do this, we need to work with a large number of children at the beginning of school, and then follow them up to see how their reading develops.

One of our trained research assistants would need to work with your child during the normal school day in order to measure his/her reading and related skills. The tasks will be spread across five or six sessions lasting approximately 20 minutes each. All tasks have been specially designed to be appropriate for young children and involve activities such as remembering sequences of sounds, repeating back nonsense words and naming letters. Most of the tasks are administered on a laptop with child-friendly images and a touch screen. We find that children normally enjoy doing these activities; however, they will be regularly asked if they want to continue and allowed to stop at any time. No names will be included in our results. Instead information on the range of scores attained by children in each class will be passed onto the teachers.

We will ask to work with **every** child in Reception. If you **do not** want your child to join in with this study, could you please sign the slip below and return it to the school as soon as possible.

Thank-you very much for your help with our research. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Alternatively, more information can be found on our website [www.aston.ac.uk/alp](http://www.aston.ac.uk/alp)

Best wishes,

Dr Anna Cunningham

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I am the parent/carer of \_\_\_\_\_ and I **do not** want my child to participate in the Aston Literacy Project.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_