

Intervention study on literacy skills and interest in reading (LuKiVa)

Dear guardian,

Your child has been invited to participate in an intervention study on literacy skills and interest in reading. Your child will participate in the study as part of the daily activities of their early childhood education or pre-primary education group. The study is carried out in cooperation with the City of Helsinki's Education Division, Aalto University, the University of Jyväskylä and the University of Turku.

1. What is the study about?

The study will explore how applying a dialogic reading method during reading sessions and increasing the amount of reading to children promotes children's literacy skills and interest in reading. The reading practices of the groups of children will also be reviewed.

The study participants are early childhood education and pre-primary education locations in Helsinki. These locations are randomly divided into pilot and control locations. The study will start in January 2026 and end in May 2026.

In the pilot locations, children aged 5–6 (born in 2019 and 2020) will participate in teacher-led reading sessions applying the dialogue method twice a week. These reading sessions offer children a space to ask questions, think and share their own ideas, while strengthening their literacy skills and interest in reading. Outside these sessions, the children are read to in a more informal setting. In control locations, children's literacy skills are supported in the usual way. If you would like to know whether your child is in a control group or a pilot group, you can ask your child's teacher.

2. Why has your child been invited to take part in the study?

The study is part of the City of Helsinki's statutory quality assessment and development work. Your child's daycare centre or pre-primary education location has been selected to be part of this study. This letter has been sent to the guardians of children in both the pilot and the control groups.

3. What kind of data will the study collect?

The survey collects data through child evaluations. Child evaluations include information on literacy skills from testing the child, as well as the teacher's evaluation of the child. The children will do the literacy tasks one-on-one with the teacher. The teacher will assess the child's language skills, interest in reading, self-regulation skills and their actions during the reading sessions. In addition, data will be collected on how many dialogic reading sessions the child will participate in during the spring of 2026.

4. What will be done with the information collected?

The University of Turku will combine the evaluation data with the background information

related to the group of children, provided by the City of Helsinki. The data is then sent to the University of Jyväskylä, where it is merged with the information from the teacher survey. The teacher survey collects information about the teachers and the reading sessions of their group. The merged data is sent to Statistics Finland, where the entire data is merged with the register data for each child. Next, the children's direct identification information will be removed. The University of Jyväskylä processes the data into material for the research group, ensuring that no individual children, teachers, groups of children or locations can be identified. You can find a more detailed description of the processing of personal data here.

The data is always transferred and processed securely.

5. Would you like to know more?

If you have any questions or would like more information about the study, please email lukiva@jyu.fi or vare.tptutkimus@hel.fi.

6. Privacy protection and your rights

Your child's personal data will be processed in full confidence. Only authorised researchers will have access to the research data. The data collected and how it is processed and stored is described in the privacy policy. The privacy policy is available at (www.educaflagship.fi/lukiva-tietosuojailmoitus).

7. Participation in the study

Children's participation in the study is completely voluntary. The processing of personal data is based on scientific research and the statutory quality assessment of education. A parent or guardian does not have to give consent for their child to participate. However, they may refuse to allow their child's participation with a separate notification, without giving a reason and without any negative consequences.

If you do not give your child permission to take part in the survey, contact the director of the daycare centre or the pre-primary education location and inform them of this, giving them the name of your child and the name of the group. The director of the daycare centre or pre-primary education unit will forward this information to vare.tptutkimus@hel.fi.