

Study on reading skills in the second grade

Dear guardian,

You and your child are invited to participate in a study on the reading skills of second graders. The study is being conducted as a collaboration between the City of Helsinki's Education Division, Aalto University, the University of Jyväskylä and the University of Turku. The study aims to assess the effectiveness of different operating models in the development of pupils' reading skills.

1. What is the study about?

The study involves 34 City of Helsinki schools that receive needs-based funding. The purpose of this additional funding is to level out differences between schools within the city. From the second-grade classes in these schools, pilot and comparison classes have been randomly selected for the study. The pilot classes will have an additional teacher in addition to their class teacher during their Finnish language lessons. The additional teacher is either a qualified special needs teacher or a Finnish as a second language (S2) teacher. In the comparison classes, Finnish language teaching will continue as usual.

In the study, pupils will participate in skills assessments in the autumn and spring terms of the second grade and the autumn term of the third grade. The assessment includes tasks related to reading, writing and mathematics. Pupils will complete the assessment online, and it will take two lessons. Additionally, the class teacher will evaluate pupils' social and emotional skills as well as their working skills. Based on the responses, researchers will evaluate the impact of different operating models on the development of pupils' reading skills.

2. Why is your child invited to participate in the study?

The study is part of the City of Helsinki's statutory quality assessment work. Your child's school is one of the 34 schools in the Helsinki area selected to participate in the study. This letter has been sent to all the pupils in the second grades participating in the study.

3. What kind of information is collected in the study?

The study collects information on pupils' reading and writing skills, basic mathematical skills, and interest in reading and mathematics. In addition, teachers will evaluate their pupils' social and emotional skills, as well as their working skills, through a questionnaire.

4. What happens to the collected data?

The assessment data will be stored on a secure server of the University of Turku. The research team will then send the data to Statistics Finland, where they will be supplemented with registry data, and direct personal data will be removed.

No participant will be identifiable.

5. Do you have questions?

If you have any questions or would like more information about the study, you can send an email to tp.tutkimus@hel.fi. You can also contact the principal of your child's school.

6. Data protection and your rights

Your child's personal data will be handled confidentially. Only researchers with a research permit will have access to the study material. The collected data, their processing and storage are described in the data protection notice, which is available at <https://educaflagship.fi/fi/tietoa-tutkimuksesta/tutkimusalue-1/lukutaidon-interventiotutkimus/tietosuojaseloste>.

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), you have the right to review your child's data, request corrections or restrictions on their processing and object to the processing and transfer of the data. To exercise these rights, please send an email to tp.tutkimus@hel.fi.

If you have further questions or requests related to the processing of your personal data, send an email to tp.tutkimus@helsinki.fi.

7. Participation in the study

Participation in the study is entirely voluntary for pupils. The processing of personal data is based on scientific research and statutory educational quality assessment. Guardians do not need to give consent for their child's participation. They may decline their child's participation without a specific reason and without consequences.

If you do not give permission for your child to participate in the study, please send an email to your school's principal and provide your child's name and class.