

What is the TEDS Social Skills and Relationships Study?

We are inviting you to take part in our Social Skills and Relationships Study. The information below should help you understand why this study is being done and what it will involve.

What is it about?

As you know, the overall aim of TEDs is to look at children's growth and development and begin to answer some of the questions about how genes and environment interact to influence the way we are. We are interested in many aspects of development, from health, emotions and behaviour to children's skills in language and thinking.

Many of you have helped us by telling us about how your children were developing when they were younger. We are interested in how children behave and communicate now they are a little older and so we are asking you a set of questions about their behaviour.

The questions ask about ability to interact in social settings, ability to communicate with other people, and some items asking about the children's interests and language. Some of the behaviours we ask about are not particularly usual behaviours, the items may surprise you, but others are very common. It is quite possible that very few of the behaviours we ask about reflect what your twins are like - that is ok, and it may be that the twins show a lot of the behaviours we ask about - there really are no right or wrong answers.

What does taking part involve?

It would involve a short phone call, lasting approximately 40 minutes where we ask you some questions about the twins. We will call first to make an appointment for a convenient time to complete the questionnaire.

What happens to the findings of the research study?

Your children's results will be kept strictly confidential. The results will be analysed and reports written for scientific journals. We hope that our work will lead us to a better understanding of how all children develop. If we understand children's development better, it will become easier to help other children who are experiencing difficulties and perhaps in some cases, prevent them in the first place.

We would like to help. What do we do next?

Please complete the enclosed consent form which shows that you agree that you may take part. We have enclosed a freepost return envelope for the form.

Do we have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do take part, you are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

Thank you very much for your help. If you have any questions or comments please call us on **FREEPHONE 0800 317029**