

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS
“Sound Effects”

Investigating speech impairment in early childhood

This project will be conducted by the following Research Team:

Assoc Prof Sharynne McLeod and **Dr Linda Harrison**

School of Teacher Education, Charles Sturt University

Assoc Prof Lindy McAllister

School of Community Health, Charles Sturt University

Jane McCormack (02 60516835, jmccormack@csu.edu.au)

Project Officer, Speech Pathologist, PhD student

School of Teacher Education, Charles Sturt University

Your child's centre is participating in a study to investigate the occurrence and impact of speech impairment in early childhood, and families' access to therapy for their children.

Every parent who has a 4 or 5 year old child is asked to participate (even if your child does not have difficulty speaking). Findings from this study will be used to provide information to policy makers, speech pathologists, families, educators and the general public in order to improve services for children with speech impairments and their families. Information gathered from this study may be published and may be used in future research.

If you consent to participate in this project, you are asked to:

1. Complete the attached Parent Screening Questionnaire to identify whether you have any concerns regarding your child's communication skills, and return this to your child's kindergarten / preschool / childcare centre.
2. Indicate whether you consent to your child's teacher also completing a similar form to identify any concerns she/he may have regarding your child's communication development.
3. Indicate whether you would like to receive further information about the next phase of the project, in which a speech pathologist will conduct assessments with children whose parents have completed Screening Questionnaires.

You are assured of confidentiality and anonymity as part of the project. No information that could identify you or your child will be released. Please understand that you are not obliged to participate in this study and are free to withdraw at any time without having to give a reason and without consequences.

If there are any questions you may still have in relation to the research, please contact Jane McCormack, Project Officer and Speech Pathologist (02 60516835, jmccormack@csu.edu.au).

Yours faithfully,



A/Prof Sharynne McLeod, Dr Linda Harrison, A/Prof Lindy McAllister, Jane McCormack

NOTE: I understand that if I have any complaints about this research I can contact:

Executive Officer, Ethics in Human Research Committee

Charles Sturt University

Private Bag 99, BATHURST NSW 2795

Telephone 02 6338462

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.