

Independent evaluation of the Discover Children's Story Centre summer writing programme

Submission date 25/04/2013	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 04/06/2013	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 22/01/2019	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

This study is conducted to find out if the four-week summer workshop delivered by the Discover Childrens Story Centre, helps to improve pupils writing skills during the transition from Year 6 to Year 7, especially the pupils with poor to average writing skills (between Key Stage 2 Level 3c and Level 4c). This will include a variety of workshops, including poetry and literacy sessions combined with a range of enrichment activities such as trips to performances and sporting activities.

Who can participate?

Pupils in Year 6 (2012/13 academic year), whose KS2 English is predicted to be between Level 3c and Level 4c and attending primary and secondary schools that are willing to agree to all research procedures can participate in this study.

What does the study involve?

In total, 250 pupils will take part in this study. They will be randomly allocated to one of two groups: receiving workshop in the summer holidays of 2013 or a school-based reading and writing workshop (control group). At the beginning of the autumn term 2013, all participating Year 7 pupils will complete the GL Assessment Progress in English (PiE) 11 (Long Form). Pupils in the control group will be offered the school-based workshop after this evaluation. The results of pupils who have taken part in the four-week summer workshop will then be compared with the results of pupils in the control group, in order to find out the effect the workshop has had on pupils writing skills.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Participating pupils will have the opportunity to be selected to attend the summer school, free of charge, which will provide interesting and memorable experiences and may improve their reading and writing skills. There are no known risks of participation.

Where is the study run from?

The independent evaluation is being conducted by the University of York and Durham

University. The Discover Childrens Story Centre is responsible for communication with schools and conducting the workshop.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
The study begins in January 2013 and is expected to last for one year.

Who is funding the study?
The Education Endowment Foundation, UK.

Who is the main contact?
Principle Investigator: Professor David Torgerson, david.torgerson@york.ac.uk
Trial Manager: Laura Jefferson, laura.jefferson@york.ac.uk

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
Version 2.1 (23/04/13)

Study information

Scientific Title
A pragmatic randomised controlled trial evaluating the effectiveness of the Discover Children's Story Centre summer writing programme

Study objectives
What is the effectiveness of the Discover four-week literacy summer school, on the writing skills of participating children, when compared to business as usual?

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at the time of registration

Study design

Pragmatic randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Education primary and secondary schools

Interventions

Intervention: Discover four-week literacy summer school: delivered and supported by the Discover Childrens Story Centre during the summer holidays of 2013. The intervention will include a variety of workshops including poetry and literacy sessions, trips to performances, sporting activities and drama.

Control: Business as usual, following the evaluation, control group pupils will be offered a reading and writing workshop delivered in secondary schools in the autumn term 2013

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Childrens combined scores on the two writing tasks of the GL Assessment Progress in English 11 (Long Form)

Key secondary outcome(s)

Childrens scores on the reading, spelling and grammar components of the GL Assessment Progress in English 11 (Long Form)

Completion date

31/12/2013

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Secondary schools will be eligible to participate if they are willing to liaise with feeder primary schools to identify eligible pupils that will attend in Year 7 and if they are willing to undertake all related research procedures.
2. Primary schools will be eligible if they are willing to undertake all related research procedures and are identified as feeder schools to the participating secondary schools.
3. Eligible pupils will include:
 - 3.1. Those in participating schools

3.2. Year 6 pupils in the 2012/13 school academic year

3.3. Those predicted to achieve between Level 3c and Level 4c in KS2 English, based on the teacher assessments

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Child

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Pupils, primary and secondary schools NOT meeting the inclusion criteria will be excluded

Date of first enrolment

01/01/2013

Date of final enrolment

31/12/2013

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Director

York

United Kingdom

YO10 5DD

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of York (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/04m01e293>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Charity

Funder Name

This evaluation is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Funder report results	results	01/05/2014	22/01/2019	No	No