

Participant Information Sheet

The aim of this research is to discover how an Augmented Reality (AR) book can contribute to children's early reading skills.

Augmented Reality overlays digital content (audio and 3D models) over the physical world. It can be implemented through a headset or mobile device. This research does not require a headset, or any special equipment. It uses a standard tablet or mobile phone.

The mobile app works with a physical booklet. The booklet is augmented with animated 3D objects. As the reader interacts with the book different letters, phoneme sounds, and animated models magically appear on top of the pages. Phonics has been shown to be an effective method in helping children learn to read.

Who can participate?

The app is a teaching tool, but children are not involved in this stage of the study. I am looking for practitioners in phonics teaching, this would include primary school teachers, linguists, and additional learner support. Participants will have experience using classroom-based tool and techniques for phonics instruction at Key Stage 1.

What do I need to do?

If you decide to participate in this research, you will be provided with a link to install an app. You will also be provided an associated booklet. You will use the app and consider how the app might function as phonics teaching tool. You can use the app as much, or as little as you like. There is no charge for the app or booklet, and you can keep booklet and app after the study. The app does not store or collect any personal data.

As a participant, you will be invited to join a series of interviews and/or focus groups. Attendance at all sessions is not mandatory; you can participate in the discussions either online or in person. The in-person focus groups will be held at the University of Greenwich, and each session will last no longer than one hour.

What will happen during the interviews?

During these sessions, participants will interact with and discuss the augmented reality app. The discussions will cover aspects like usability, functionality, and interaction techniques. Additionally, we will explore how the app compares with traditional alphabetic decoding techniques commonly used in the classroom. I will analyse the feedback and identify common themes and insights from the participants.

As part of the evaluation process, after the interviews and focus groups, I will request your input via a User Experience Questionnaire (UEQ+), which should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

How will meetings of the focus group be documented?

The evaluation of the app will be documented in my PhD thesis. I will also send a copy of the document to participants.

I will be responsible for this data. Paper based material will be stored in a locked cabinet at the University of Greenwich. All the data will be destroyed within 12 months of the research being completed and published.

Do have to participate and how do I withdraw?

I will be responsible for safeguarding your data. Any paper-based materials will be stored securely in a locked cabinet at the University of Greenwich. All research data will be destroyed within 12 months of the research's completion and publication.

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw at any point during the research. Your decision to withdraw will not result in any negative consequences or penalties.

You can withdraw from the focus groups and interviews at any time up until May 15, 2024, when the data analysis phase begins. If you decide to withdraw, please contact me directly, and your data will not be included in the study or any subsequent analyses. Your personal information, such as names, telephone numbers, and emails, will be removed from our records upon your withdrawal request.

Your choice regarding participation and withdrawal is always respected.

How will the results and information be stored?

Data collected will be managed in accordance with GDPR regulations. Research results will be retained for no more than 12 months. Hard copies of assessment scores will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in my office at the University of Greenwich, while a digital version will be secured in a password-protected folder. University of Greenwich servers have username and password protection. After the research is concluded, all records will be appropriately disposed of.

I will collect names, telephone numbers, and emails for communication purposes. This information will be anonymized and stored on a University of Greenwich server.

Questionnaire data and audio recordings from focus group sessions will be securely stored as encrypted, password-protected files on a secure system.

This project is part of my ongoing doctoral research at the University of Greenwich. Thank you for considering your involvement in this study.