



Information for participants in the study

Dear participants,

This is the information leaflet for guardians whose child will participate in the *Study about earlier language instruction*. The study is funded by the Finnish National Agency for Education and is conducted by the Åbo Akademi University in the spring 2020 in different parts of Swedish-speaking Finland. The head of the research at Åbo Akademi University is project researcher, PhD Katri Hansell.

The focus of the study is the earlier introduction of Finnish as A1 language in Swedish-speaking schools in Finland. The aim is to map the language skills in Finnish and perceptions of the Finnish language and the learning of Finnish among pupils in the first grade of basic education, who have started their language studies in Finnish during the school year 2019–2020. Data will also be collected from the guardians of the pupils and from teachers around the Swedish-speaking Finland.

The effects of the earlier language instruction in the first grades has not been studied largely. This is why this study will provide important information on understanding the starting position of the instruction of Finnish as well as information about how the starting age for language learning affects the development of language skills and motivation for language learning. In order to acquire enough information about the effects of earlier language instruction, it is important that as many pupils, guardians and teachers as possible participate in the study.

There are no risks involved in this study for the participants: we do not collect any sensitive information or data. The results of this study will not affect the school's evaluation of the pupils and no information concerning the results of a single pupil will be handed over to the teacher.

In order to conduct the study, we need a legal basis to process personal data. Please read this document carefully. We will ask for your permission for participation in this study with a separate consent form.

Voluntariness and the rights of the participants

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can withdraw from the study at any point without a particular reason. The personal data that is collected for the study will not be given to a third party. When reporting the results of the study in publications and in presentations, information that might reveal the identities of the participants will not be presented or discussed. Pupils and their guardians have the right to ask for more information at any point of the study and, if they wish, to request the data concerning them to be deleted.

You can find a more detailed description of how we process personal data later in this document. You can ask for more information on processing personal data from

- **The Head of the study Katri Hansell** (katri.hansell@abo.fi, +358 50 5125456)
- **The Data Protection Officer at the university Roald von Schoultz** (dataskydd@abo.fi, +358 50 353 4114)
- **The Information Security Officer Jan Wennström** (jan.wennstrom@abo.fi, +358 40 517 7704)

Information about the study

In this study, data will be collected from pupils, teachers and guardians.

The pupils who participate in this study will be asked to do tasks in Finnish with a researcher. All tasks will be done during the school day. The pupils will do the tasks orally with a researcher and the tasks will be audiotaped.

In addition to the data collected from the pupils, guardians and teachers are asked to answer an online questionnaire about their views on the earlier start in foreign language instruction. A link to the online questionnaire will be sent separately.

The research data consists of:

- pupils' performances in oral Finnish tasks
- pupils' answers to questions about studying Finnish and using Finnish in free time
- guardians' and teachers' answers to the online questionnaire about their views and experiences on the earlier start in Finnish language instruction



Protection of personal data and data controller

The following personal data will be collected from the pupils who participate in the study: name, date of birth, school. In addition, name and contact information of one of the pupil's guardians/parents are also collected.

All collected information and data in this study will remain confidential. Only the members of the research team will handle the information and data. The data is stored securely and it is not accessible by a third party.

In the study in the year 2020, the data controller is the Finnish National Agency for Education and the Åbo Akademi University is the data processor. The legal basis for processing personal data is the national development of the earlier language instruction.

We also ask for your consent to store the data at the Åbo Akademi University for a possible follow-up study. In this case, the basis for processing personal data is the permission you give and the Åbo Akademi University will act as the data controller. You will be contacted before the follow-up study starts.



Storing and archiving of the data

The data that is collected in the study (including pupils' personal data) will be digitalized and stored safely for the duration of the study. The data will be stored in an encrypted hard-drive at the faculty of education and welfare studies at the Åbo Akademi University. The personal data will be deleted at the latest when the child finishes basic education.

If the pupils' guardian gives an additional consent, the digitalized data can be stored permanently in the national Language Bank of Finland and in the future be used with your consent also in other research on language learning. This digitalized data will be anonymized; names or any other personal data that could reveal the identity of the participants will be removed.



Findings of the study

The findings of the study will be publicised in scientific publications that deliver new information. The research and its findings are also the topic of presentations and teaching sessions.

The research data will be used for example in:

- reports for education authorities
- international research publications
- Finnish research publications
- conference and seminar presentations
- teacher education

The rights of the participants

For more information, please contact **project researcher PhD Katri Hansell** (+358 50 5125456, katri.hansell@abo.fi) at any point of the study.

Information about the study is also available at the webpage of the project: www.abo.fi/al finska.

You have the right to check and correct the information you have given as well as inform us if you do not want the personal data of your child to be processed, or make a complaint about the processing of personal data.

We kindly ask you to sign the attached consent form and deliver it to your child's teacher according to his or her instructions. With the form, you can give us permission to process the information that is listed on it.