



TEDS EARLY DEVELOPMENT STUDY

INFORMATION SHEET

King's College Research Ethics Committee Ref: PNM/09/10 – 104

Before you decide whether to take part in our TEDS DNA study it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. If you have any questions someone from our team will go through the information sheet with you and answer any questions you may have.

What is the purpose of the study?

The DNA will be analysed to help us learn more about the genetic factors that play a part in the development of human language, thought and behaviour.

What are genes?

Genes are like recipes written in tiny strands of DNA, and they provide information to help make us who we are. We all have thousands of genes, and each of us has our own complex set of genes. It is well known that identical twins actually share the same genes - non-identical twins and other siblings share a lot, but not all. Genes have a major influence on what we look like, the colour of our eyes and our hair, how tall we are, and so on. Genes also have a partial influence on many other aspects of development, usually making little differences and sometimes causing problems. Genes certainly don't explain everything - but they are important to look at when trying to understand the interaction of genetic and environmental influences on development.

What will happen if I decide to take part?

Almost all cells in your body have DNA, and saliva cells are very easy to get. Enclosed is a DNA collection pack. It is very quick and just needs you to provide a saliva sample by spitting into a small plastic tube. It doesn't hurt at all and will take between 2 and 5 minutes to complete. The enclosed DNA kit contains instructions on exactly how to do this and a freepost envelope has been provided for you to return the sample.

Will you compensate me for my time?

Yes. To thank you for taking the time to participate, upon return of the saliva sample we will email you a £15 Love2Shop flexecode redeemable online at Amazon, Topshop, iTunes and many others. Please make sure that you provide us with your email address on the consent form.

What will be done with our DNA?

DNA samples will be deep frozen, in a special locked freezer that belongs to the TEDS Study. No names will be on the test tubes we freeze, only identification numbers.

Who is funding us?

The study is funded and regulated by the Medical Research Council independent of any commercial interest and is concerned with research only.

Why have I been asked to take part?

We are currently in the process of updating our records, and have noticed that we do not have DNA from you.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is voluntary. You do not have to take part. You should read this information sheet and if you have any questions you should ask the research team. You should not agree to take part in this research until you have had all your questions answered satisfactorily.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

There are no foreseeable risks in participating in the study. The main disadvantage to taking part in the study is that you will be donating about 2 to 5 minutes of your time to complete the task.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

If you participate, you will help us learn more about the genetic factors that play a part in the development of human language, thought and behaviour.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

All information is confidential and the data from the DNA is used anonymously. We are not allowed to pass any information to outsiders such as police, doctors or insurance companies. At the end of the study, the remaining DNA might be used in future research that is ethically approved.

Will I be informed of the results of the DNA test?

As a research study we are not allowed to pass on individual results. We will however tell you about our research progress through our newsletters.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

Our intention is to publish the results of this study in a medical journal. When we do this, no personal information will be given. All the data reported will be anonymous and will not be traceable to a particular person. If you would like a report of the findings of our study, we will be happy to provide it.

What if I still have questions?

You are very welcome to phone us on **0800 317 029** if you have any queries.

If you decide to take part, please make sure that you complete the enclosed consent form. If we do not have your signed permission, we can't use the DNA you are kind enough to send us.

Many thanks for your help.