



**Dr Jo Saul**

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Joolz Scarlett  
Manor Green School  
Manor Green School, Elizabeth Hawkes Way  
Maidenhead, Berkshire  
SL6 3EQ

**Title of Study: Elucidating mechanisms of language growth in minimally verbal individuals**

This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee (Project ID Number: **20175/002**).

Dear Ms Scarlett,

I am a Research Fellow at University College London and I am conducting a research project exploring the relationship between speech-motor skills and development of language abilities in children with autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions. We would very much like to work in partnership with staff and primary-age children at Manor Green School on this project.

Our research investigates whether some minimally verbal children have an additional speech-motor barrier to expressive language. Our findings will inform the development of intervention tools to support speech in children with minimal expressive language. This knowledge will be directly useful to practitioners working with young children with autism and families making therapy choices.

We will do this by following a group of minimally verbal 4-12 year-olds and charting their speech sound development and the progress they make learning and producing language over 3 years (4 measurement points). The majority of our measures will be gathered remotely (either by online parent questionnaire, parent home video upload or video-conferenced assessments with parents and children). At the beginning of the study, we would like to conduct brief in person assessments, either at the children's homes or, subject to your permission, in their schools.

Our main request is that you help disseminate the study information to potential families – allowing us to conduct in-school assessments is optional and, in this case, we would provide financial compensation of £25 per child to cover staff time associated with in-school testing.

The project has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee Project ID **20175/002** and all members of the research team possess enhanced disclosure certificates from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

We plan to give you a call in a few days, after you have had chance to consider this proposal and discuss it with your colleagues. If you are interested in supporting this research, we can discuss further details and practicalities. In the meantime, should you require any further information or have any queries, please do get in touch by phone or email.

We very much hope that you would like to work with us on this exciting new project, but of course we understand if you are unable to participate on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jo Saul