

NAME OF STUDY: Teenagers', with Developmental Language Disorder, Experiences Taking Part in Music Activities.

Dear Recipient,

My name is Laoise Kiernan and I am currently an undergraduate studying Clinical Speech and Language Studies in the school of Linguistics and Communication Sciences at Trinity College Dublin.

I am currently undertaking my capstone project which is exploring the experiences of teenagers with Developmental Language Disorders in taking part in music activities. I am asking you to assist me in my recruitment plan by distributing my flyer (attached in this email) through any relevant channels, including social media pages such as Facebook, Instagram, or the IASLT website.

Before you decide whether or not you wish to assist me with the recruitment for this study, it is important for you to understand why this research is being done and what is involved in taking part, for you and for the participants.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please email me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information on. Feel free to take some time to read this leaflet and to decide whether or not to facilitate the recruitment for this research by distributing the flyer.

Background information to the study

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a neurodevelopmental condition characterised by continuous difficulties in acquiring language. It affects understanding and expression in linguistic subfields and affects everyday listening, speaking, reading and writing. It can also impact social and academic participation.

Music can be described by a range of elements, however three of the main ones include melody, rhythm and harmony. The connection between these elements and DLD is informed by the literature which has found components of music such as rhythm being impacted in children with DLD.

When music is sung, lyrics are often involved. It is understood that there is a range of cognitive-linguistic commands within understanding or learning lyrics, which individuals with DLD might have difficulties with.

The study I am undertaking involves the recruitment of adolescents because of the development of emotional expression, social bonds and identity exploration in this time period. Music may be a powerful tool for young people to explore these developments.

This study will take the form of a meaningful joint discussion with 6-12 participants (aged from 13 to 19) and aim to constructively explore music-related activities in three

broad areas: Leisure, Academic/extracurricular, and social. I also hope to explore if and how participants feel that their diagnosis affects their participation in music-related activities.

Thematic analysis will be done on the data to understand how the participants from this client group feel about their participation in music-related activities, and if these are influenced by their Developmental Language Disorder in any way.

I plan to qualitatively explore the perspectives of adolescents with DLD around their experiences with music-related activities.

You have been asked to assist in the distribution of my flyer through any relevant channels to help spread the word on my study and aid with the recruitment process. This is because you have a strong presence in Ireland, where this study is being conducted.

Benefits

Participants may not directly benefit from this research, however it does adopt a constructive joint discussion paradigm that will allow participants the opportunity to engage in a meaningful interaction and deeply reflect on their music experiences.

This may be beneficial for some participants, if music plays a hugely positive role in their lives. Whether that be due to having meaningful relationships with others built around music, having fond memories of music-related activities they have been involved in, or they have a deep personal connection to music itself.

This may bring about some positive reflections during the joint-discussion.

We also hope that the results will help us further understand the impact of DLD on the experiences of adolescents with DLD in terms of their engagement with music activities.

Disadvantages

While interviews will not exceed one hour in length, there may be risks of inconvenience for participants as the interview will take up some of their time. For participants who wish to do the interview in person, some commuting is indicated.

While the risk is small due to the questions in this interview not bringing up specifically sensitive topics, some discussions around unpleasant experiences/ feelings such as exclusion may be brought up by a participant. However, this is unlikely to cause a big upset.

Do participants/gatekeepers have to take part?

It is the choice of participants/gatekeepers whether they would like to take part in/assist with the study or not. If they do not wish to participate/assist, they can change their mind at any time without needing to give a reason. If they decide that they do not wish to be part of the study/assist with the study, they will continue to receive the same level of support related to their DLD. If participants/gatekeepers wish to withdraw from the study at any time, they should contact the email: kiernala@tcd.ie or project supervisor Dr Caroline Jagoe (cjagoe@tcd.ie).

What I need your assistance with

I am asking for your assistance in distributing the flyer attached in this email for this research project through any relevant channels. This may include IASLT social media pages such as Facebook, Instagram or the IASLT website.

I am aiming to recruit 6-12 participants for this research that meet the following inclusion criteria:

- Aged 13-19
- Have a self-reported diagnosis of DLD from a Speech and Language Therapist
- Are attending mainstream secondary school in Ireland
- Don't have other confounding diagnoses e.g. visual or hearing impairment, autism, ADHD

Initial contact should be made to me by the parent or legal guardian for participants under the legal age of 18.

Email: kiernala@tcd.ie

or to contact project supervisor Dr Caroline Jagoe (cjagoe@tcd.ie).

What taking part in the study involves for study participants?

Taking part in this research will involve participants to contribute to joint discussion for an hour or less. This can take place in the:

Clinical speech rooms in Trinity's South Leinster Street building D02 KF66 (These include rooms: 1, 2 & 4 (which can be pre-booked and are a confidential space).

A place of convenience for participants that is confidential and accessible (by walking, bus, car, taxi, train etc).

Or Online: over a Zoom call.

Personal data such as legal guardians and participants names, parent's email addresses, audio recordings and transcripts will be collected. Names and emails will

be provided by sending and signing consent forms. Audio recordings will take place on the day of the interview. The transcripts will come from the audio recordings that have been transcribed verbatim.

Sensitive data such as a self-reported diagnosis of DLD that was given by an SLT will also be necessary in order to fit the inclusion criteria of this specific study.

All of this data will be kept in a secure institutional OneDrive behind a two-factor authentication for three years post award of graduation as per Trinity's guidelines. This is apart from the audio recordings, which will be kept for 13 months in the case that ensuring academic rigor is indicated.

These will be kept under the care and responsibility of the project supervisor (Dr Caroline Jagoe). She will ensure that all data is deleted at the marked date of 13 months/ 3 years.

All relevant measures have been taken to assure that the data will be kept within the EU.

Will study records remain confidential?

The interview will be audio recorded, These will be immediately transferred to a secure institutional One Drive (where it will be stored, for 13 months, as trinity requires this in the case that ensuring academic rigor is indicated). The One Drive will be secured by two-factor authentication and will be only accessible to me as the primary investigator and my supervisor. The privacy of participants is important to us. Participants' personal information (consent forms, transcripts etc) will be stored securely in an institutional OneDrive in Trinity College Dublin for up to 3 years. Any information that leaves Trinity will be pseudonymised so that identities remain confidential. Anonymised data may be shared with the scientific community and industry.

What will happen to the results of this research?

The information from this study will be submitted as my dissertation. It may also be disseminated through presentations or published in scientific papers and on public registries. If this is the case, the identity of participants will remain confidential and no one will know that they took part in the study.

What do I do if I have any further questions?

Please reach out through the same email that has provided you with this information sheet (kiernala@tcd.ie) or to project supervisor Dr Caroline Jagoe (cjagoe@tcd.ie). We will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter.

Consent to facilitate research

STUDY NAME: Teenagers', with Developmental Language Disorder, Experiences Taking Part in Music Activities.

Centre ID:

Identification Number for study:

Consent Form

There are 2 sections in this form. Each section has a statement and asks you to tick the box if you agree. The end of this form is for the researchers to complete.

Please ask any questions you may have when reading each of the statements.

Please leave the box blank if you do not agree.

Thank you for assisting me with this study.

General	Tick box
I confirm I have read and understood the Information Leaflet for the above study. The information has been fully explained to me and I have been able to ask questions, all of which have been answered to my satisfaction.	
I understand that this study is entirely voluntary , and if I decide that I do not want to assist with the recruitment of this study , there are no negative repercussions . I can stop assisting with this study at any time without giving a reason.	
I understand that I will not be paid for assisting with this study .	
I voluntarily agree to assist with this research study having been fully informed of the risks, benefits and alternatives which are set out in full in the information leaflet which I have been provided with.	
I understand that I will assist in the dissemination of this study's flyer through any relevant channels whether that be on the relevant associations website, social media pages or otherwise.	
I know how to contact the research team if I need to.	

Data	Tick box
I understand that any identifiable information about me and about participants (name, email, audio recordings, transcripts) will be protected in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).	
I understand that anonymous information from this study might be shared with third party academics worldwide for research and learning purposes.	
I understand that the audio recording of participants' interviews will be retained by Trinity College Dublin for 3 years for use solely by Trinity College Dublin, and then destroyed.	

Please sign all of the below:

Gatekeeper's Name (Block Capitals): _____

Gatekeeper's Signature: _____

Date: _____

To be completed by the Principal Investigator.

I, Laoise Kiernan, have taken the time to fully explain to the above gatekeeper(s), the nature and purpose of this study in a way that they could understand. I have explained the risks and possible benefits involved. I have invited them to ask questions on any aspect of the study that concerned them.

I have given a copy of the information leaflet and consent form to the gatekeeper with contacts of the study team.

Researcher name: Laoise Kiernan

Title and qualifications: Clinical Speech and Language Undergraduate Student

Laoise Kiernan

Signature:

Date: 24/07/25