

Currently in draft form.

Dear.....,

My name is Laura-Jayne Watson and I am a 3rd year undergraduate student studying Speech Pathology and Therapy at Manchester Metropolitan University. I am writing to invite you to take part in a research project. The proposed title of the research project is:

Perceptions of the support available in the transition of AAC use.

Please take your time to read the following information outlining the project as it is important that you understand the reasoning for this research. Feel free to discuss the research project with others if you wish to do so.

It is imperative to state that this is a student research project and therefore, may not be published, hence may not trigger any future research. The research will be gathered via semi-structured interviews with parents whose children have transitioned between AAC modalities.

The aim of this research project is to identify and discuss, where appropriate, parent's views on the quantity and quality of support and information they received regarding their child's transition between AAC modalities. For example, their child's transition from:

- a light tech communication aid to a low tech communication aid
- a low tech communication aid to a high tech communication aid

In doing this, identification of any recurring themes from interviews with the parents will allow areas of importance to be identified. Therefore, from the interviews that I will conduct, I primarily want to know if parents feel they had enough support and information provided surrounding their child's transition phase. If yes, I would like to gather information from parents regarding the quantity and quality of the support and information they received. If no, I would like to discover from parents what could be done to improve the amount of support and information that is made available to them at this crucial time. Also, there is a lack of research in this area and I feel that information gathered and analysed from the interviews may provide important questions which future research could explore

As a parent whose child has already transitioned from system to system, your opinions and views on this area would be of great importance. Therefore, as a participant in this research project you would be agreeing to participate in an interview which would last for approximately 20-30 minutes. The interview will have topic guidelines which will be discussed regarding the quantity and quality of the

support and information you as a parent had available to you in your child's transition phase, and also your thoughts and feelings around this time. It is hoped that there will be 3 or 4 parents taking part in this research.

The interview will be audio-recorded so that an accurate transcript can be made for analysis of the interview. Due to the interview being audio-recorded there may be certain confidentiality issues e.g. quotations used in analysis hence, it is important that you as a participant are aware of this. Also in terms of confidentiality, you as the participant must be aware that confidentiality will be adhered to within the constraints of the project being submitted for assessment. The interview and analysis will be anonymised, and you will have the right to withdraw from this study up until the point that the data is anonymous without providing a reason. If you do decide to take part in the interview you will be given an information sheet and will sign the consent form attached. This research project has also undergone ethical clearance from Manchester Metropolitan University.

The potential benefits could include:

- Parents being able to voice their opinions and views on support available during their child's transition phase
- Possibility of aiding future research in this area so that there is more evidence
- Ensuring that future parents whose children will go through the transition phase receive the correct amount of support and information they will need.
- Clinicians being aware of the types of support that caters to the needs of parents and the child around this time.

The research will conclude in November 2010 when the article is submitted to Manchester Metropolitan University. The article will then be graded and may be published in a journal article e.g. Communication Matters. Participants will be provided with a summary of the findings from the interviews and also an analysis from this on submission to Manchester Metropolitan University.

Attached is the consent form which includes response options which I would be grateful if you could complete and return.

If you have any further queries do not hesitate to contact either myself (071004513@stu.mmu.ac.uk) or the supervisor for this project, Dr. Janice Murray (j.murray@mmu.ac.uk).

Thank you for your time and for considering taking part in the research project.

Yours Sincerely
Laura-Jayne Watson

DRAFT

CONSENT FORM

Title of Project: Perceptions of the support available in the transition of AAC use.

Name of researcher: Laura-Jayne Watson

1. I confirm that I have received and understood the information sheet provided to me regarding the above study on (date). I have been able to clarify any further questions regarding this research project and these have been answered satisfactorily.

2. I understand that my participation in this study is voluntary and I therefore have the right to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

3. I confirm that I have been informed that the interview I will participate in will be audio-recorded and quotations may be used in the research article.

4. I consent to take part in the above study.

Name of participant

Date

Signature

Name of researcher

Date

Signature

DRAFT