



NOVEMBER 2013
ISSUE 1

TEDS



Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for parents. This is our chance to tell you more about the progress of the research which you are making possible.

What is TEDS and what is the TFaB study?

The Twins Early Development Study (TEDS) began in 1995 under the leadership of Professor Robert Plomin at King's College London. With the help of around 13,000 families it is now one of the world's premier studies of how genes and environment shape our development.

Dr Bonny Oliver was the first TEDS manager and she now leads a brand new study - Twins Family and Behaviour (TFaB) at the University of Sussex

In January 2013, the TEDS team helped us to invite families with young twins born in 2009 and 2010 to join our TFaB study. If you're reading this newsletter then it means that you are among our first new recruits!



Welcome to TFaB!

Meet the TFaB Team



From left to right: Katie Shaw, Rachel Latham, Alison Pike and Bonny Oliver.

www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/thenurturelab/index

Hello, I'm **Bonny**. I helped Professor Plomin to set up the original TEDS study all those years ago, and am now an independent researcher, although Professor Plomin and I continue to work closely together. It is so exciting to be able to start a new study with families like you! I research the family and children's development. In particular, I am interested in twins because they can help us understand how genes and environments work together to shape our behaviour, relationships and personality.

Hello, I'm **Alison**. Bonny and I have worked together over the last 18 years, and I'm pleased to be involved in this exciting project! Much of my past research has looked at why some brothers and sisters get along so well, and others not so well. In addition, I look at why children who grow up in the same family often turn out so differently from one another. Twins can provide unique insights into these questions, and I look forward to learning more from your families!

Hello I'm **Katie**. I have recently joined the TFaB team, and I am really excited about getting involved in this fantastic project. I come from a research background, having recently completed a postgraduate degree in developmental and clinical psychology. I am interested in exploring the relationship between twins and learning about the bonds that they form compared to other, more typical, siblings. By taking part in this study you are helping us to develop our understanding of these unique attachments, so your contribution is really valuable. I look forward to getting a chance to speak to many of you in the near future.

Hello I'm **Rachel** and I have also recently joined the TFaB team. For the last few years since graduating with my degree in Psychology I have been working directly with children and families providing support and intervention at times of crisis and need. I am interested in relationships between parents and children and also how Mums and Dads on their own, as well as Mums and Dads together parent their children. I'm really excited to be exploring this within this study and can't wait to see what results we find!

The study so far . . .

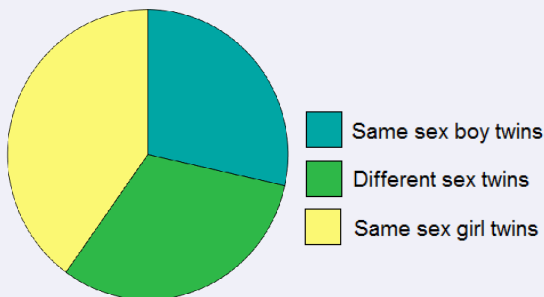
We started by contacting Mums, and so far 321 families have told us they are interested in taking part in TFaB. We have already had 246 questionnaires back! However, we are keen to involve Mums, Dads, Stepmums and Stepdads in our research, so now we are getting them involved as well.

We are now extending our sample further to include any twins born in 2009 and 2010. So if you know someone who wants to be involved, please put them in touch with us by email, text or using the enclosed form.

Who are our families?

Our TFaB families are spread right across the United Kingdom as well as a couple of families who have now moved abroad.

To date, 56% of the TFaB children are female and 44% are male. The proportion of same sex and different sex twins is shown in this pie chart— 68.5% are same sex and 31.5% are different sex twins.



Our Contact Details:

Tel: 01273 877052 or 01273 877288

Text: 07847 814140

Email: TFaB@sussex.ac.uk

Moving forward with the study . . .

As well as keeping up with recruiting our new families, the TFaB team is currently phoning all of our involved families, to properly update everyone with our progress since we began the study.

Beginning over the next month, we will be asking families some questions over the telephone. This is a great way for you to tell us a bit more about your twins, and your family. Following these telephone interviews, we plan to ask you to play some games with each of your twins, where possible over the internet, so that we can learn even more about parents' relationships with their children. We will be in touch nearer the time to let you know the details. We will be telephoning you so you will get the chance to ask us any questions – as always, feel free to contact us anytime.

We know that many of you had your twins start school in September, we hope they have settled in well.



And finally . . .

We will be keeping you updated with the progress of the TFaB study through our annual newsletters. We will be collecting a lot of information from our families so it will take some time until we have results to share – but we promise to let you know as soon we do!

We really appreciate your participation and patience, we couldn't do our research without you!

 Please cut here and return.....

Have you moved recently? If so please let us know your current address: _____

_____ Tel: _____

It is also really helpful for us to have the contact details of a friend or family member in case we lose touch with you in the future: _____

_____ Tel: _____



WANTED



**ANY ONE YOU KNOW WHO IS
ALSO INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING IN OUR STUDY
WHO HAS TWINS BORN IN 2009
OR 2010!**

**WE ARE KEEN TO ENGAGE ANY OTHER FAMILIES WHO MIGHT WISH TO TAKE
PART IN OUR STUDY. IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED AND FITS
THIS DESCRIPTION PLEASE PUT US IN CONTACT WITH THEM BY COMPLETING
THEIR DETAILS BELOW AND RETURNING THIS PAGE TO US.**

FAMILY 1:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NUMBER/EMAIL: _____

FAMILY 2:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NUMBER/EMAIL: _____

FAMILY 3:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NUMBER/EMAIL: _____

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!