

**No:** P14  
**Title:** To research how Talking Photo Albums could improve children's learning.  
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I am a full-time nursery nurse working as a classroom assistant in reception at Hunwick School. The school is situated in the centre of a relatively affluent Wear Valley Village.

In this study I focussed on the use of Talking Photo Albums to help one particular child to encourage early Literacy and enhance communication. The research was carried out in a reception class over a period of a few weeks in the Autumn term 2004.

### **Background**

In this study, the focus was on Literacy lessons. One of the resources the reception teacher uses to introduce and reinforce the letter sounds to the children is Jolly Phonics. The teacher uses an interactive whiteboard with a programme called Active Primary in a desk top mode alongside a power point of the Jolly Phonics children's worksheets. The initial sounds are taught to the children through a series of worksheets and actions. The children were also able to practise the letter sounds using the Jolly Phonics Jingles CD. It is hoped that the children make the connection from the action on the worksheet and the children use this as a reminder when they start to write their letter sound.

I work with one child (aged 4 yr 5 mth) who has poor concentration, and difficulty in understanding. This child found concentrating on the Jolly Phonics worksheets hard. She would often wander off to a different area within the classroom e.g. to the computer area or to the interactive whiteboard. Consequently, I decided to use a Talking Photograph Album to help this child.

A Talking Photograph Album is very similar to a traditional pocket-sized photo album. However, at the edge of each page, is a button which activates a slim voice recorder in the cover of the album and which can record information about the picture or photo which is displayed in the cellophane pocket. Thus I was able to prepare an album with each pocket displaying a large letter of the alphabet, and together we recorded the appropriate letter sounds that she could then take pride and pleasure in replaying as she worked through the book. Together we worked through the material from the Jolly Phonics worksheet until she had confidently mastered the material

One of the best features of Talking Photograph Albums is its flexibility. You can record four minutes of the child's speech, 10 seconds at a time for each of the photo/picture pockets.

### **Gathering Evidence of Change**

Photographs were taken by the class teacher whilst I worked with this child. I also used the digital blue camera to video myself and this child whilst carrying out this activity. Her response was very meaningful to her. Choosing to record this activity while using the albums was a great starting point which has helped her to further develop the recognition of letter sounds and she is beginning to write her name. Before we started to use the Talking Albums her writing was unrecognisable.

I looked at my own role during this activity, and I became more aware of how, when working with this child, I can contribute to the reinforcement and