

National Nanny Association

Home-Based Childcare Research Programme

Research Ethics & Participation Policy

Introduction

The National Nanny Association (NNA) is committed to building a trusted evidence base for professional home-based childcare through ethical, responsible and reflective research.

The NNA Research Programme recognises nannies as skilled early years professionals whose everyday experiences provide valuable insight into children's learning, development and wellbeing.

All research activity undertaken as part of the programme will prioritise:

- Children's safety and wellbeing
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Respectful participation
- Honest reporting of findings

1. Purpose of the Research Programme

The NNA Research Programme aims to:

- Explore and document the experiences of children receiving home-based childcare.
- Understand how everyday nanny practice supports children's development.
- Connect practitioner knowledge with existing research evidence.
- Identify areas where further research is needed.

The programme is designed to encourage reflective practice and professional learning. It is not intended to assess or judge individual nannies or children.

2. Participation

Participation in NNA research projects is voluntary.

Participants may include:

- Professional nannies
- Families (where appropriate)
- Early years professionals
- Researchers and partner organisations

Participants can choose whether to take part and may withdraw their contribution at any time before publication.

3. Protecting Children's Privacy

The NNA is committed to protecting children's identities.

Research submissions must not include:

- Children's full names
- Addresses
- School or nursery details
- Photographs unless specific consent has been obtained
- Any information that could identify a child or family

Children will only be referred to using anonymous descriptions, such as:

"Child aged 3 years"

"Toddler aged 24 months"

4. Consent

Where research involves observations of children, appropriate consent must be obtained.

Consent should be:

- Informed — participants understand what information is being collected and how it may be used.
- Voluntary — families and nannies are free to decline.
- Ongoing — consent can be reviewed or withdrawn.

5. Child-Centred Approach

Children's voices, interests and wellbeing must remain central.

Research should:

- Follow children's interests.
- Respect children's choices.
- Avoid disrupting normal routines.
- Never place pressure on a child to participate.

The purpose of the research is to understand children's experiences, not to test or measure individual children.

6. Confidentiality and Data Protection

The NNA will:

- Store research submissions securely.
- Remove identifying information before publication.
- Use anonymised examples when sharing findings.
- Follow UK data protection requirements.

7. Quality and Transparency

The NNA is committed to honest and responsible reporting.

Research findings will:

- Include limitations.
- Avoid overstating conclusions.
- Distinguish between practitioner observations and established research evidence.
- Recognise where further investigation is needed.

8. Research Review

Where possible, research summaries published by the NNA will include:

- Research question
- Methodology
- Sources used
- Key findings
- Evidence strength
- Implications for practice
- Areas for future research

9. Respect for All Forms of Home-Based Childcare

The NNA recognises that children and families have diverse needs and experiences.

The Research Programme welcomes contributions that explore different approaches, cultures, family structures and childcare experiences.

10. Commitment

Through this programme, the NNA aims to create a respectful, inclusive and credible evidence base that strengthens understanding of professional nanny practice.

By combining practitioner insight with research evidence, we can ensure that the knowledge gained from everyday childcare experiences contributes to the future of the profession.

