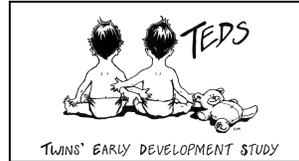


# TEDS NEWS

The newsletter for all families taking part in TEDS



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**Welcome to the first issue of the TEDS Newsletter for parents. This is our chance to tell you more about the progress of the research which you are making possible.**

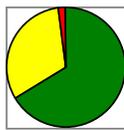
## What is TEDS?

TEDS is funded by the Medical Research Council. All twins born in England and Wales in 1994, 1995, and 1996 will be invited to take part. At this stage, all families with twins born in 1994 and 1995 have been contacted. Families with twins born in 1996 will be contacted next year.

## Our first letter to you...

A while ago you were contacted by the Office of National Statistics (ONS, previously OPCS) to see if you were interested in taking part in a Twin Register, and in TEDS.

So far, ONS have contacted over 17000 families with twins born in 1994 and 1995 in England and Wales. There are over 10000 families taking part already, and the number is growing every day... The response has been fantastic!



■ Families contacted by ONS and part of TEDS  
■ Families contacted by ONS but not part of TEDS  
■ Families who have withdrawn from TEDS

**Thank you** for helping us with our research.

## Who works on TEDS?

The TEDS team, although fairly small, includes professors, researchers, and clerical staff - people from different backgrounds and with different skills.

The Project Co-ordinator of TEDS is Bonny Oliver, whose role leads us to highlight her in this first newsletter.



Bonny is a psychologist, who is especially interested in early cognitive development, language development, and all aspects of development of children with disabilities. Her experience comes from previous work as a child carer, care worker for the disabled as well as researcher.

## Our booklets...

TEDS booklets are coming in thick and fast - about 300 each week! The TEDS team is working hard to look at all of your answers...



■ Initial booklets complete and returned to TEDS  
■ Initial booklets not returned to TEDS

From completing these booklets, you will know that it's a lot of information!

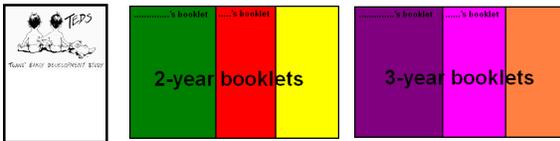
## Results?

As you know, the main aim of TEDS is to look at how genes and environment affect development, by comparing identical twins and fraternal (non-identical) twins.

To do this, full information on very large numbers of twins are needed. This is why the goal of TEDS is to study so many - around 15000 - twin families.

Frustrating as it is, we have to wait until the data are in the computer and checked thoroughly before we begin to look at the main results of the study so far.

And remember that TEDS is a "longitudinal" study. This means we would like to be able to follow the development of the twins when they are two, three and four years old.



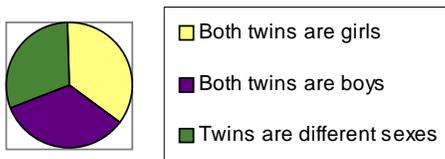
## Taking a peek...

We know that many of you are as excited as us about seeing where the information you are providing is taking us.

For this reason, we have **peeked** at just a couple of findings, from the first year of TEDS families, that do not need us to compare identical and fraternal twins.

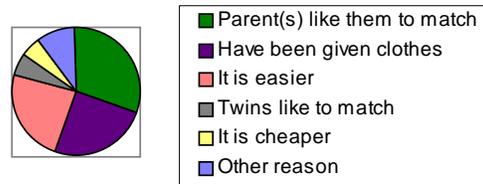
Almost exactly half (50.8%) of the children in TEDS are girls, and half (49.2%) are boys.

As expected, about two thirds are the same sex and one third are different-sex twins...



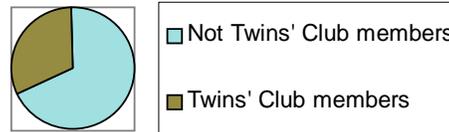
About half of you dress your twins in matching or co-ordinating clothes. It seems that all of you have strong and good reasons for doing so, or for not doing so!

The reasons that parents give for dressing them alike vary...



...These different views have nothing to do with whether the twins are boys or girls, whether or not they are the same sex and whether they are identical or not.

Some of you are members of Twins' Clubs, and some aren't...



Those of you who are members give lots of reasons, but many of you find it very useful for company and support. Those of you who are not members often do not have one within reach of you, or simply do not find them of use.

## And finally...

TEDS is the largest study ever of its kind. With patience, TEDS will provide new and exciting information about the development of twins and of single children in the future.

None of this would be possible without you...Please help us to stay in touch with you by telling us if you move.

**THANK YOU**  
for your continued support.