

Creative Inclusion

The problem

People with learning disabilities are often excluded from research. Research language can be confusing, and research concepts can feel inaccessible. This matters because inequalities are high: **1 in 3 deaths** are preventable, and people with learning disabilities die **19.5 years** earlier on average.

Our aim

To co-create a toolkit of arts-based activities that help explain research terms in a clear and creative way.

We'd love to hear from you

Dr Amy Russell:

A.M.Russell@leeds.ac.uk

Dr Melissa Kirby:

M.Kirby@leeds.ac.uk

Purple Patch Arts:

info@purplepatcharts.org

PRG: research@purplepatcharts.org

Co-production

We planned the project with Purple Patch Arts and the Purple Research Group, a team of researchers with learning disabilities.

Together, we identified tricky research terms, checked them with academics and people with learning disabilities (People First Merseyside). We co-wrote accessible definitions and used these to develop interactive arts-based activities.

Testing

We delivered a "Research Day" with **130 people** with learning disabilities at Purple Patch Arts to try out the activities and gather feedback. We refined them based on this input, then tested the final activities with **20 academics** to ensure clarity and usability.

Developing the toolkit

We co-designed four activity sheets for our toolkit on research, anonymity, withdrawal, and consent.

What we learned

People with learning disability want to understand and use research terms – they just need to be explained clearly. Creative methods enhanced the accessibility of our research process and the activities we developed for our toolkit.

"We've got a clearer picture of how to communicate about research." – PRG

What's next?

We want more inclusive research and more opportunities to test these activities. Interested in using them? Please get in touch.

"We have voices ready to be listened to" – PRG



The toolkit is free to access and use here:



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Purple Patch Arts

Supported by Research England's Participatory Research Fund. <https://doi.org/10.48785/100/374>