

Parent/ Guardian Research Consent Form

Introduction: You are being asked to give permission for your child to participate in a research study at the *Eliot-Pearson Children School* conducted by researchers from Tufts University. The study involves use of educational technology in Pre-Kindergarten and early elementary school. This is conducted in collaboration with your child's teacher and school administration.

This study is funded by the National Science Foundation and will be conducted by Dr. Marina Bers, an associate professor in the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development at Tufts University. Her research interests include the design and study of new learning technologies.

Participants: Your child will be one of approximately 80 children in the study. However, your child will work in the context of his/her classroom with his/her teacher and classmates.

Location: This study will take place in your child's classroom at the *Eliot-Pearson Children School*. Your child will never be asked to leave school grounds. Tufts University researchers and staff will be present during this study. You will be able to view the product of your child's involvement in this study during a presentation in at the end of the school year.

Study Procedures:

- Researchers from Tufts University will observe children learning about computers and robotics during lessons taught by classroom teachers and/or Tufts University researchers.
- Your child may be asked to talk to a researcher about his/her experience learning about robotics and computer programming. The researcher will ask your child about the project he/she is working on.
- Some children may be interviewed by a researcher and asked to participate in short tasks and games.
- Pending your consent, your child may be photographed, videotaped, or audio-taped as part of observations
- All children will be helped by Tufts researchers and their classroom teacher.

Risks: Participating in this study involves minimal risks

Benefits: Your child may benefit from this experience by engaging in learning and self-reflection about his/her learning experience. His or her participation in this study may help us improve curriculum and technology used in early elementary school in the future.

Voluntary Participation: You or your child may choose not to participate in the robotics study program. There will be no penalty if you decide not to allow your child to participate and you will not lose benefits or services that you are receiving now or in the future. If you choose to opt your child out of research participation, he/she will still participate in the curriculum unit taught within the classroom but in a separate group from participating classmates.

Payments & Compensations: You will not be paid or compensated for participating in this research. There is no cost for participating in the robotics session.

Privacy & Confidentiality: The research team will keep all the information collected about you and your child strictly confidential, as required by law.

Injury Statement: In the unlikely event your child is injured or feels emotionally upset while participating in the study, you may contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Bers, or the Tufts Human Subject Committee listed at the end of this form.

Completion and Withdrawal: You have the right to remove your child from the research study at any time without negative consequences. You have the right to request that any or all of your child's information be withdrawn. To remove your child, call or e-mail Dr. Bers at Tufts University.

Rights and Welfare: If you have questions about your child's rights and welfare as a volunteer in the research study please contact the IRB Administrator, Lara Sloboda, Ph.D, at (617) 627-3417 and/or the Principal Investigator, Dr. Bers.

Contact Information: This project has been reviewed by the Tufts University Human Subjects Committee. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have about the goals of this research and the procedures involved. If you have any questions on your rights as a research subject, you can call the Tufts Human Subject Committee at 617-627-3417 for information.

Principal Investigator:

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Copies of this form are available on request

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Statement of Consent

When you sign this document, you are agreeing to have your child take part in this research study. You will see two places where signatures are requested. The first is for you to sign on behalf of your child. The second is for your child to sign *only* if she/he is 7 years or older. A researcher will explain the study and the signature form to your child and obtain his/her assent or dissent at the first day of the workshop. If you have any questions or this is something you do not understand, please ask. You will receive a copy of this consent document.

Child's Name _____

Child's Date of Birth _____

I agree to allow my child to participate in this research study.

Yes

No

I agree to allow my child to be **photographed, videotaped, and/or audio taped** for data collection purposes.

Yes

No

I agree to allow **photographs, videotapes, and/or audiotapes** of my child to be used for **research presentations** (e.g. educational conferences). *No names or identifying information will be included with the child's image or audio.*

Yes

No

Name of Parent / Legal Guardian (Please print)

Signature of Parent / Legal Guardian

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If your child is age 7 or above, a researcher will explain the study and this form to your child and obtain his/her consent below.

Obtain his/her consent for participation in the research study:

I agree to participate in this research study.

Yes No

Obtain his/her consent to be **photographed, videotaped, and/or audio taped** for data collection purposes.

Yes No

Obtain his/her consent to allow **photographs, videotapes, and/or audiotapes** to be used for **research presentations** (e.g. educational conferences). No names or identifying information will be included with the child's image or audio.

Yes No

Child Signature age 7 or above Date

(Lab use Only)

Name of Researcher Obtaining Consent (please Print)

Signature of Researcher Obtaining Consent **APPROVED** Date **EXPIRES**
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Script for Obtaining Child Assent to Participate in Robotics Curriculum

Prior to implementing the robotics curriculum, researchers tell all children age 7 and older the following information and individually ask each child whether or not s/he agrees to participate, have multi-media data collected, and have multi-media data used in research presentations.

Participation

“All the children here are going to be doing activities with robots. You can also be part of a project to help Tufts researchers learn more about how children like you program their robots. You do not have to *do* anything differently if you are part of the project. The only thing that is different if you are in the project is that we will take pictures and videos of your work. By becoming part of this project nothing bad will happen to you. You can also stop being part of this project any time you or your (Mom/Dad/Parents/Legal Guardian) want. You can still do your regular activities in the classroom but in a group separate from those children who are part of this project. Your (Mom/Dad/Parents/Legal Guardian) said you could be in the project, but you also get to decide. Do you want to be part of the project?”

Multi-media data collection

“Is it ok or not ok with you if we take pictures and videos of you and your project while we work together?”

Multi-media data use in research presentations

“Sometimes we use pictures, videos, or sound clips of children who work with us to show other teachers, parents, and researchers about what we do. Would it be ok with you or not ok with you if we use your picture, video clips, or audio clips to show other people about the activities you did with your robot?”

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