Consent to Participate in Research Study

Study Title: Early Childhood Makerspace: Evaluating a makerspace for young children
Principal Investigator: Amanda Strawhacker

Background and Purpose: You are being asked to participate in a research project led by the Tufts Developmental Technologies Research Group at the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development. The purpose of this research project is to understand how children engage with materials, tools, technology, other participants, and facilitators in open-ended projects in a constructionist learning environment. More specifically, we are studying “Makerspaces” as exciting new developments in teaching and learning. We are interested in questions like: What are the specific needs and affordances of a makerspace for young children? How do adult facilitators contribute to the needs of child makers? What new tools can be designed to meet the needs of this space? How can adults and children collaborate in the ongoing design of such a space? How do young children engage in high- and low-tech making experiences, and what learning can we observe?

Procedure: We will conduct observations of children in the Early Childhood Makerspace at the Evelyn G. Pitcher Curriculum Resource Laboratory, and occasionally we may observe your interactions with the children, and/or ask you to discuss how you are contributing to the children’s work. With your permission, we will videotape the observations and discussions for the purposes of accurately transcribing the conversation. Occasionally we will also ask to take pictures or keep copies of the things that you and the children make in the makerspace (for example, drawings you make to explain an idea to a child). We will continue to collect photographs and videos within the space for the first four years that the space is open.

In some cases the video we collect may be used in conferences and teacher workshops for the purpose of professional development and education. The videotapes will be stored securely at the Department of Child Study and Human Development at Tufts. The observations and interview data we collect may be shared with teachers and other researchers in academic presentations and professional development workshops, some of which may occur online.

Confidentiality and Risk: There is minimal risk in participating in this project aside from the chance that you may be recognized in the videos. All recordings and videos collected will be securely stored at the Department of Child Study and Human Development at Tufts, where only certified researchers will have access. We ask to use your name in our presentations of findings, but you have the option to remain anonymous.

Withdrawal of Participation: Should you decide at any time that you no longer wish to participate, you may withdraw your consent without prejudice or consequence. We will erase any data previously collected of you or your work.

Cost and Benefits: There are no costs involved with participation. You may benefit from the research by learning about new tools, techniques, and pedagogies for making. Your participation will help us understand how adults and young children collaborate and learn in these types of environments and how to best support rich learning experiences in makerspaces.
Request for More Information: If you have any questions about the makerspace or the study, you can contact the Principal Investigator, Amanda Strawhacker, by email at amanda.strawhacker@tufts.edu. If you have questions regarding your rights in this study, you can contact Lara Sloboda at the IRB Office by phone: (617) 627-3417, or by email: lara.sloboda@tufts.edu.

What Else Should You Know? The Eliot-Pearson Early Childhood Makerspace research is motivated by our interest in young children’s engagement in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. If you do not want to participate in the research, you may decline to do so. As discussed above, the research may involve:

- videotaping your interactions as your work with children during observations,
- conversations with you about your experiences in making with the children, and
- your permission to show the videos, which may use your first name, in research publications and presentations and for professional development purposes, some of which may occur online.

Participation in the research is voluntary and you may withdraw at any time.

Consent to participate
I confirm that I am the true and legal guardian of the child participant, and that I have legal power to grant permission for this child to participate in research. I confirm that I understand the purpose of this study and what is involved in the research. I understand that I can ask questions at any time and that my participation is voluntary. I confirm that the purpose of the research, the study procedures, the possible risks and discomforts, as well as benefits have all been explained to me. My signature below indicates my willingness to participate in this study.

If you wish to participate in the study but do not agree to having your name used or videos of you being shown, you may indicate so below. **If you prefer not to participate, there is no penalty at all and you will still have access to any tools or activities in the Makerspace.**

1. I agree that videos of me may be shown in presentations at academic conferences and during __YES  __NO professional development (PD) meetings.

2. I agree that videos of me may be shown online for academic and professional development purposes. __YES  __NO

3. I would like my name to be used __YES  __NO

Participant Name Printed

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Researcher Signature: Amanda Strawhacker

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