

**PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN PERMISSION FOR A CHILD'S PARTICIPATE IN  
RESEARCH**

**College of Communication Participant Pool for Research Studies**

**Principal Investigator:** Cynthia Putnam (College of Computing and Digital Media)

**Collaborators:** Kendra Knight and Kay Yoon (College of Communication)

**Institution:** DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, USA

**What is the purpose of this research?**

We are asking your child to be in research studies involving communication-related issues/problems. Depending on the course that your student is enrolled, this may be a requirement that can be fulfilled by either participation in research or completion of an alternative assignment given by your child's instructor. These studies are being conducted by faculty and students in the College of Communication at DePaul University.

**Why is your child being asked to be in the research?**

Your child is invited to participate in this study because she/he is enrolled in one of the courses offered in the College of Communication at DePaul University. Students in these classes are required to be part of the subject pool and be in a research study or to complete an alternative assignment by some teachers. The subject pool is a database that helps teachers and students who want to recruit students to be in a research project reach those students.

Note that the subject pool is shared with the College of Computing and Digital Media. Because your child is under 18, s/he will only be permitted to participate in studies in the College of Communication.

**What is involved in being in the research study?**

If you allow your child to be in this study, being in the research involves completing an optional pre-screening survey that may collect some demographic information or basic information from your child that helps the researchers decide whether your child can be in their study. Then your child may sign up for any additional research studies. The studies may involve items like the completion of an online survey or may involve coming into the laboratory and completing a task, while being observed.

Your child will be provided with a specific research agreement called an assent that will explain the details of each individual research study, so your child can decide whether or not he/she wants to be in the research. Your child will be given extra credit for research participation by some teachers. Your child will also have the option to choose not to be in any research and can complete an alternative assignment such as writing a paper. If your child chooses the alternative assignment, he or she is still given extra credit by the teacher.

**How much time will this take?**

The pre-screening survey can take between 30 and 60 minutes. The individual research studies will take between 30 minutes to a few hours of your child's time. The alternative assignments are designed to take a similar amount of time to the research studies.

**Are there any risks involved in participating in this study?**

Being in these studies does not involve any risks other than what your child would encounter in daily life. There is very little risk to answering the pre-screening survey questions or being in the research studies. However, it is always possible your child could be embarrassed or uncomfortable answering some questions or completing some tasks. Any specific risks related to an individual study will be explained to your child in the study-specific assent document.

**Are there any benefits to participating in this study?**

Your child will not directly benefit from completing the pre-screening survey or being in these studies. In general, it is hoped that the results of research will help to learn more about the topic being studied and help people in the future trying to answer questions on that topic. Any specific benefits for a particular study will be explained to your child before he or she decides whether to participate.

**Is there any kind of payment, reimbursement or credit for being in this study?**

Your child will receive .5 credits for any study (including the pre-screening survey) that involves 30 minutes or less of his or her time. Your child will receive 1 credit for any study that takes 30 to 60 minutes to complete. It is up to your child's teacher to decide how the credit will translate into extra credit or a grade for your child. Your child can obtain a similar amount of credit by completing an alternative assignment, as determined by the teacher.

**Can you decide not to let your child participate?**

Your child's participation is voluntary, which means you can choose not to have your child participate. There will be no negative consequences if you decide not to allow your child to participate or change your mind later. Also, even if you give your permission, your child may decide that s/he does not want to be in these studies, and that is ok with us. If participation is required by your student's instructor and your child does not participate in research studies to fulfill the course research requirement, he or she will be given an optional assignment instead, such as writing a short paper

**Who will see my child's study information and how will the confidentiality of the information collected for the research be protected?**

The research records will be kept and stored securely. Your child's information will be combined with information from other people taking part in the study. If a paper is written about a study that included your child, we will write about the combined information we have gathered. We will not include your child's name or any information that will directly identify your child. We will make every effort to prevent anyone who is not on the research team from knowing that your child gave us information, or what that information is. However, some people might review or copy our records that may identify your child in order to make sure we are following the

required rules, laws, and regulations. For example, the DePaul University Institutional Review Board may review your child's information. If they look at our records, they will keep your child's information confidential.

In the database subject pool system, your child will be given a number and when he/she participates in a research study, he/she will only be identified by the subject number.

**Who should be contacted for more information about the research?**

Before you decide whether or not to allow your child to take part in the study, please ask any questions that might come to mind now. Later, if you or your child has questions, suggestions, concerns, or complaints about the study or you or your child want to get additional information or provide input about this research, you or your child can contact the Research Participation Coordinator at [participantPool@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:participantPool@cdm.depaul.edu).

If you (or your child) have questions about your child's rights as a research subject you or your child may contact Susan Loess-Perez, DePaul University's Director of Research Compliance, in the Office of Research Services at 312-362-7593 or by email at [sloesspe@depaul.edu](mailto:sloesspe@depaul.edu). This research has been reviewed and approved by the DePaul Institutional Review Board (IRB).

You or your child may also contact DePaul's Office of Research Services if:

- Your (or your child's) questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You (or your child) cannot reach the research team.
- You (or your child) want to talk to someone besides the research team.

***You will be given a copy of this information to keep for your records.***

**Statement of Parent/Legal guardian Permission for a Child's Participation in Research:**

I have read the above information. I have had all my questions and concerns answered. By signing below, I indicate my permission for my child to be in the research.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_