



INFORMED CONSENT AND PARENT PERMISSION FOR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE

Title of Project: Co-Designing Culturally-Grounded Technologies to Promote Preschool Childrens Multimodal Literacy and Socio-emotional Learning through Digital Drum Talk

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Institution: Northeastern University, Department of Music | Art+Design, College of Arts, Media and Design

Sponsor: N/A

Key Information

- You and your child are invited to participate in a research study, involving four 1-hour interactive sessions with your child and online surveys for you to complete. Participation is completely voluntary.
- The purpose of our research is to explore what kinds of rhythmic and embodied practices and technologies may support and stimulate children’s literacy and STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, art, and math).
- We will provide materials for your child to use, such as percussion instruments, language kits, the interactive *Alphariddims* game and the *Drumball* controller.
- You will be asked to fill out an entry/exit questionnaire and be interviewed briefly about you and your child’s experience before and after the workshop.
- There are no direct benefits for you and your child, but we are conducting this research to find out the potential benefits for early childhood educators and young children.

Introduction and Purpose



We are inviting you and your child to participate in the *Urban Griots Playground* research study (UGP) specifically focusing on families living in the Boston area with a preschool-aged child (ages 3-6).

The purpose of our study is to understand the use of playful technologies that involve using patterns in a rhythmic manner, including shapes, numbers, letters, words and phrases. In this study, we will use the *Drumball-Alphariddims* system (pictured), and we want to learn from adults and children like you about how this design can be applied in an early childhood learning environment. We also want to see if children can learn and use a “drum language” through music, math, and dance.

This form will tell you about the study and you can ask the researcher any questions that you have. When you are ready to make a decision, you may tell the researcher if you want to participate or not. You do not have to participate if you do not want to. If you decide to participate, the researcher will ask you to sign this statement and will give you a copy to keep.

Procedures

The table below summarizes the activities that you (adult caregiver) and your child will participate in. More detailed information is listed after the table. The total estimated time commitment is 4 hours for your child, and 1.5 hours for you (adult caregiver).

When?	Who?	What?		How & Where?	Duration?
Before the workshop	Parents	Consent and Media Release forms	Review and complete consent and media release forms	In-person with researcher at your child’s day care	Varies (you are welcome to ask questions and complete when ready)
		Parent Questionnaire	Answer questions about the child's entry skills and activities	Online survey	30 minutes
		Entry Interviews	Share family background information and the child's multi-literacy and socio-emotional behaviors	Phone interview with researcher	30 minutes
During the first workshop session	Children	Pre-test	Identify letters of the alphabet	Verbal assessment conducted by researcher at the first workshop	Under 5 minutes
Throughout the workshop sessions	Children	Observation by researchers	Observed by researchers as they participate in rhythm-based activities and interactions in the workshop	Observational notes taken by researcher during the workshop	Throughout workshop sessions
		Audio/Video Recordings by researchers	Recorded by researchers at selected key activities and interactions during workshop	Audio/video recording by researcher during the workshop	Varies (during relevant events or culminating activities)
Throughout the 4-week study period and beyond	Children and parents	Telemetric Data	Play interactive game and complete rhythm quests	Online game, tablet interaction	Varies (depending on you and your child’s use)
During the last workshop session	Children	Post-test	Identify letters of the alphabet	Verbal assessment conducted by researcher at the last workshop	Under 5 minutes
After the workshop	Parents	Parent Questionnaire	Answer questions about your child’s multi-literacies development after the workshop	Online survey	10 minutes
		Exit Interviews (optional)	Share experiences with workshop materials and the digital platform	Phone interview with researcher	30 minutes

Before the workshop

1. Sign and submit the informed consent/parent permission form, and the Research Media Records Release Form.
2. You will be asked to complete a 30-minute online questionnaire involving a skills inventory of

your child's multi-literacies.

3. You will be asked to schedule a 30-minute phone interview to be conducted at the beginning and end of the research period. A link for signing up online will be shared with you. Questions will focus on the early literacy experiences, schooling, interests and abilities of your child. The researcher will go over more information about the study and will answer any questions you have about the study.

During the workshop

1. During the first workshop, researchers will take about 5 minutes to conduct a pre-test with your child, to understand your child's ability to name pictures and recognize alphabet letters before participating in the sessions.
2. Your child will be asked to attend **all four sessions**, with each session lasting for about 1 hour. Modules and activities for each session include the following:
 - **Literacy** - Explore sounds and visual symbols (tone: '·', slap: '–', bass: 'x') through the body
 - **Numeracy** - Explore numbers, and addition through rhythm (breathing / drumming)
 - **Geometry** - Explore shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle) through rhythm and movement
 - **Life Science** - Explore animal and natural phenomena concepts through digital storytelling
3. Each session includes an e-learning time block to stimulate children's multimodal literacies through solo, paired and group activities. Individual account access to the *Urban Griots Playground* digital learning hub will also be provided for each family to access mobile versions of the *Alphariddims* game (including additional resources) and continue the modules from home.
4. During the workshop, researchers will take observation notes about the workshop activities and children's interactions. Researchers may also video/audio record segments of the workshop activities as a way to capture interactions and culminating events. We ask for your permission in video/audio recording your child's participation (see p.4 of this document about Media Record Release).

During and after the last workshop

1. During the last workshop session, we will take about 5 minutes to conduct a post-test of your child's ability on letter/picture naming.
2. After the workshop, you will complete the exit questionnaire online about your child's multi-literacies development (10 minutes).
3. At the end of the last workshop, you can take part in an option exit interview for about 30 minutes on the phone to share your child's experiences with the workshop curriculum and tools.

Benefits

There are no direct benefits to you or your child for participating in this research study. However, the information learned from this study will enable educators, researchers and the general public to better understand how rhythm-based activities and technologies can support young children's learning.

Risks/Discomforts

- Participating in research always includes some risks. Though we are taking every precaution to keep these risks minimal, there still exists the risk of discomfort due to subject matter and the

risk of a breach in confidentiality. You are free to decline to answer any questions you don't wish to, or to stop participating at any time.

- Your child might get bored or tired and decide that he or she does not want to complete the study activities. If so, your child can just tell us that he or she wishes to stop.
- *Breach of Confidentiality*: A possible risk for any research is that confidentiality could be compromised, that is, people outside the study might get hold of confidential study information. We will do everything we can to minimize this risk (e.g. disk encryption, de-identification of personally identifiable data, secure storage in a research office that only the PI has access to).

Confidentiality

- Your study data will be handled as confidentially as possible. If results of this study are published or presented, individual names will not be used. Only pseudonym names, non-identifiable data and aggregated data will be shared.
- To minimize the risks to confidentiality, we will encrypt all data before storing it or transmitting it over the internet. However, we cannot guarantee the complete confidentiality of data transmitted over the internet.
- When the research is completed, we may save the study records for use in future research done by myself or others. This study information may be retained for up to 3 years after the study is over. The same measures described above will be taken to protect confidentiality of this data.
- ***Sensitive/reportable research information:***
 - We will keep your study data as confidential as possible, with the exception of certain information that we must report for legal or ethical reasons, such as child abuse, elder abuse, or intent to hurt yourself or others.
 - If we publish or present results of this study, we will not use individual names or other personally identifiable information. Any audio/video data collected will be cropped or edited to help protect your identity.

Media Records Release

As part of this project we will make audio, and/or video recordings of you while you participate in the research. Please read and sign the attached Research Media Records Release form which will allow you to indicate how the recorded data from you and your child may be used. The research project may retain the audio/video records of your child from the workshop sessions, the activity data logs from your and your child's use of the online platform, and audio records of the optional entry and exit phone interviews with you (adult caregiver). We will only keep data for which you have provided signed permission.

With your permission, segments of the video and audio records may be used to highlight the program's key ideas or adults'/children's takeaways for the general public who are interested in STEAM or early childhood learning. The video and audio segments may be shared on social media platforms, academic conferences, online journals for educators, or news interviews etc.

The types of data that may be retained at perpetuity to inform follow-up studies include: audio, transcripts of entry/exit phone interviews with you (adult caregiver), pre-/post-test scores, survey results and any multimodal artifact produced on the platform (e.g. digital drum texts, messages, poems, design artifacts).

Compensation/Payment

Each participating family will receive a \$100 gift card for taking part in the study. The gift card amount will be prorated based on the number of workshop sessions the child participated in, and whether the adult completed the entry and exit questionnaires. The pre-workshop phone interview is considered as part of the registration process and the post-workshop phone interview is optional, hence parents' participation in the pre- and post-interviews will not be considered in the proration.

Rights

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. You have the right to end your, and/or your child’s, participation in this research study at any time without penalty. Nothing bad will happen if you decide to stop participating.

Questions

You and your child may ask questions about this study at any time, now or later. Questions about this research may be addressed to Professor Pierre Tchetchgen, 541-363-7920 (p.tchetchgen@northeastern.edu).

Additionally, if you have any questions about your rights in this research, you may contact the Human Subject Research Protection, Mail Stop: 560-177, 360 Huntington Avenue, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Tel: 617.373.4588, Email: IRBReviews@northeastern.edu You may call anonymously if you wish.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Northeastern University Institutional Review Board.

Please put your initials next to the items with your consent and permission:

_____ **I agree to have myself and my child take part in this research.**

_____ **I agree to complete the survey about my child before and after the workshop.**

_____ **I agree to be interviewed before and after the workshop.**

_____ **I allow the research team to audio record my interview(s).**

_____ **I allow the online *Alphariddims* game to collect information about me and my child’s game play.**

_____ **I allow the research team to video record my child’s participation in the workshop.**

Signature of parent or legal guardian agreeing to take part

Date

Printed name of person above

Signature of person who explained the study to the participant above and obtained consent

Date

Printed name of person above

_____ **I agree to be contacted for follow up or for future research studies**

Contact Information (email or phone)