

Parental Permission to Participate in Research

Purpose: The Campus School of Smith College has three main purposes:

1. To create a unique setting where children realize their potential, become informed and engaged citizens, and are well prepared to continue their educational journeys.
2. To advance the common good by mentoring the next generation of teachers while designing and sharing innovative practices in teaching and learning.
3. To provide a setting where Smith College students and faculty can study and conduct research on teaching, the learning process, and child development.

All research must be approved by the Smith College Institutional Review Board (IRB) consisting of scientists and non-scientists who are charged with protecting human participants from unethical or harmful research. In addition, all studies must be reviewed and approved by the Campus School of Smith College administration and by any teachers who will be involved to ensure that the research will not conflict with the Campus School culture or educational objectives. In this letter, *we are seeking your permission* to have your child, _____,

(Please insert your child's name)

participate in the research activities described below.

Research activities & procedures covered by this permission : The research covered by this permission form is aimed at understanding instructional strategies, curriculum, classroom management techniques, cognitive development, and/or educational assessment. Improving teaching and learning is a central aspect of the Campus School's laboratory mission. Teachers at the Campus School routinely make changes to their instructional methods, materials, and learning activities. What distinguishes the experimentation described here from these routine changes is that the effort is more systematic, involves collaboration with a researcher (who is not the teacher), and yields findings that may be presented or published. The key characteristic of this research is that the experience of participating children is typical of what ordinarily happens in classrooms.

The studies covered by this permission form can involve observations or interactions (e.g., surveys, interviews, tasks, and/or games) with your child by one or more adult researchers in addition to the teacher (e.g., Smith College students or faculty). All interaction between your child and researcher(s) will be monitored by at least one other adult. All researchers must complete mandatory background checks, research ethics training, and training for working safely with children.

Research may also involve audio or video recording of your child. However, these recordings will not be used in public without additional permission from you.

Research not covered by this permission: Research on topics not directly related to teaching and learning, topics that investigate matters deemed sensitive, studies that involve access to educational records pertaining to your child (e.g., grades, test scores, progress reports, disciplinary status) are NOT covered by this form. Your child's participation in research of this type will require your informed consent, which is a separate written permission form.

Risks: The studies covered by this permission form must be deemed by the Smith College Institutional Review Board (IRB) to pose "minimal risk" defined as "no more risk than your child would encounter in an ordinary day at school." This means that the study procedures must not cause physical (e.g., pain), psychological (e.g., emotional distress), or social (e.g., bullying) harm to your child. Any study posing higher risk will require separate written permission from you.

Benefits: Your child's participation in research is intended to result in improvements in teaching and learning and the development of teachers. Your child's participation will advance these central missions of the Campus School

Compensation: There will be no compensation to you for your child's participation in this research.

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413.585.3270 33 Prospect St., Northampton MA 01063

Campus School

of SMITH COLLEGE

Confidentiality: No information will be presented or published that could identify you or your child. Any identifying information will be kept in a locked physical file or password protected computer file. Identifying information will be kept separate from other research data (e.g., test scores, interview responses). Data will only be accessed by the teachers, researchers, and their assistants. As noted above, the researchers may contact you in the future to seek your permission to display recordings from the research.

Right to Ask Questions and Report Concerns: You will ALWAYS be informed when a research study is taking place in your child's classroom. You have the right to ask questions or report concerns about research before or after it occurs. Questions or concerns may be addressed to Chris Marblo, head of school at the Campus School (telephone: 413 585 3270 or e-mail: cmarblo@smith.edu) or Lauren Duncan, Chair of the Smith College Institutional Review Board (telephone: 413-585-3936 or e-mail: lduncan@smith.edu).

Consent: We hope this form makes clear that we are extremely vigilant in protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects and that you will be informed about ALL research in which your child participates. We also hope that the form makes clear how important and valued your participation is in pursuing the Campus School's mission. Your decision about whether or not to let your child participate will not affect your relationship with Smith College or the Campus School or in any way change your entitlement to our services. Your consent remains in place for the duration of the school year. We will ask you to renew your permission every school year.

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understood the information provided on this form. We encourage you to make a copy of the signed form before returning the original to the school.

PLEASE CHECK ONE AND SIGN BELOW:

I give permission for my child to participate in studies of: instructional strategies, classroom management techniques, cognitive development, or educational tests.

I do not give permission for my child to participate in studies of: instructional strategies, classroom management techniques, cognitive development, or educational tests.

I realize that these studies may involve interactions with trained and approved adult researchers who will always be monitored by at least one other adult. I realize that my child may be recorded in the process of the research.

Name of Parent/Guardian (print): _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

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