

Framing and Enabling Children's Active Play using Novel Technology

QUT Ethics Approval Number 2021000278

Research team

Principal Researcher: Professor Thea Blackler

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of Queensland (UQ)**Associate Professor Linda Knight
Early Childhood Education, RMIT University**Why is the study being conducted?**

This research project is being undertaken as part of an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project. The purpose of this research is to explore how children engage in active play, and how digital toys may be used to facilitate active play in young children.

Your child is invited to participate in this research project because they are aged 3-5 years old and engage in active play.

What does participation involve?

Participation will involve a video recorded observation session. The observations can take place at different times of the day, and can occur at home, at the park, on one of our QUT campuses, or wherever you feel comfortable.

The session will last for approximately 60minutes, during which your child will test 3 digital toys. The general format for the session includes:

- 10min introduction and toy familiarisation
- 10-15min Toy 1
- 2-5min break
- 10-15min Toy 2
- 2-5min break
- 10-15min Toy 3

- 5min questions for your child about the toys (such as “which was your favourite toy you played with?”, “what did you like best about your favourite toy from today?”)

During these observations, Children will wear an Actigraph accelerometer in order to gather physical activity data. This accelerometer can be worn like a watch on your child’s non-dominant wrist, or around the hip like a pager. This will allow us to discover how active children get while using these digital toys.

Researchers will also be taking note of how children use digital toy to engage in physical active play such as running, climbing, skipping and jumping; and how the design of the digital toy may have facilitated these actions. This observation session will include a video recording to assist in our note taking.

Your child’s participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project without comment or penalty. You can withdraw anytime during the observations. If you withdraw your consent for your child to participate in this study within two weeks of the sessions, any identifiable information or observations may be destroyed. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

It is expected that this research project will not benefit you directly. The outcomes of this study will contribute to our larger research project which will contribute to the design of tangible technology for active play. You can request a brief summary of the outcomes of the study by checking a box on the consent form.

To recognise your contribution should you choose to participate in the joint interview and observation, the research team is offering each family a \$25 Coles/Myer Gift Card.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are minimal risks associated with your participation in this research project. You may experience some inconvenience in scheduling the observation, however the research team aims to mitigate this through consultation with you to find an observation time that that best suits you and/or the childcare environment.

The observation study should cause little discomfort to the children, however there may be some disruption to the daily routine as the researchers will be new people in their environment which may be distracting, the children may also feel discomfort at being observed and recorded. Distraction to the home environment, is a likely outcome, while discomfort around being observed/recorded may be less likely and may only affect a small number of participants; it is more likely that the recording equipment may be distracting for children due to natural curiosity.

To minimise COVID-19 related risks, researchers will maintain social distancing; wear masks as required; use hand sanitizer regularly; and stay home if unwell.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

Photographs and segments of video recordings may be used in publications and conferences, but only if you give permission for this and children’s faces and identifying details will be blurred so they are not identifiable.

A re-identifying code stored separately to personal information (e.g. name, address), will only be accessible to the research team (listed), however we will be sharing research data with researchers who are not currently named on the Information Sheet but who come onto the project in future, and for training future researchers. This project may also engage transcription services. The code plus identifying information will be destroyed 5 years of the conclusion of the project.

Any personal information that could potentially identify you or your child will be removed or changed before files are shared with other researchers or results are made public. The information that will be removed includes names/names of children and location information.

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

As the research project involves a video recording:

- The recording will be retained for the minimum retention period of 5 years after the last research activity.
- The video recording may be used to make still images of toys or equipment which may be published, however identifying information will be removed.
- Members of the research team (listed above) and future researchers on the project will have access to recordings.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the data you provide cannot be traced back to you in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, we will only include the relevant part of a quote, we will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded. Nevertheless, while unlikely, it is possible that if you are quoted directly your identity may become known.

The research project is funded by the Australian Research Council and will not have access to the data obtained during the project.

How do I give my consent to participate?

We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form (enclosed) to confirm your agreement to participate.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information please contact one of the listed researchers:

Thea Blackler	a.blackler@qut.edu.au	(07) 3138 7030
Peta Wyeth	peta.wyeth@qut.edu.au	(07) 3138 2868
Stewart Trost	s.trost@uq.edu.au	(07) 3069 7301
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Dannielle Tarlinton	dannielle.tarlinton@hdr.qut.edu.au	(07) 3138 7030

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +61 7 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.