

Georgia Institute of Technology

Human Subject Consent

1. Project Title

Investigating a System for Parent-Child Communication in Divorced Families

2. Investigators

Gregory D. Abowd, Professor/College of Computing (Faculty Advisor)
Svetlana Yarosh, Graduate Student/College of Computing

3. Introduction/Purpose(s) of the Research

You are being asked to take part in a research project that is looking at how parents and children who are away from each other interact. We hope that this project will lead to the creation of new technologies that will help families like yours stay in touch with their children while being apart.

4. Procedure

We will ask you to join your child and the child's other parent in helping us test and improve a communication system, called the ShareTable. On the attached sheet, you can see a diagram describing the ShareTable. The complete study will take less than 9 weeks. You, the other parent, or your child can choose to stop the study at any time. We will be asking you to do the following:

- Week 1:
 - Learn about the study and decide whether to participate
 - Fill out a demographics survey
- Week 1 & Week 7:
 - Answer a questionnaires about long-distance communication between you and your child
- Week 3:
 - Guide us as we put the ShareTable in your home. We will need a 3 foot by 3 foot space in a room where the child frequently spends time.
- Week 3-6:
 - If you find it appropriate, interact with your child using the ShareTable. We will record video of your interaction over the system automatically. If you do not want the video viewed by the researcher, simply flag it for deletion in your diary entry. We will delete it without viewing it.
- Week 1-9:
 - Keep a diary of any long-distance communications with your child.
 - Possibly, assist the child in keeping a picture diary of any long-distance communications with the other parent.

- Participate in a weekly interview about your diary and/or experiences with the ShareTable that will be audio recorded.

Some important points to consider before deciding whether you want to participate:

- While we will keep data from this study as confidential as allowable by law, it can be subpoenaed for a court trial. We will remind you to only give us information that could potentially be shared in court.
- We will video record your interaction with the system. Any videos that you do not want to be viewed by the researcher can be flagged for deletion and will not be viewed.
- We will ask to interview the child in a different room from you. However, you or the child may elect to return to the same room if you are uncomfortable.
- We will ask to audio record the interviews and video record system use. These recordings will be erased once the files are transcribed and coded.
- We will have to remove the ShareTable after week 6, which may be difficult for you and/or child.
- The ShareTable includes stationary audio and video components that may transmit images or sounds that you did not want to share.
- The ShareTable requires a 3 foot by 3 foot floor space and a connection to the Internet. We may need to make minor infrastructure adaptation, such as stretching an Internet cable between rooms. Our research team will make such modifications as safely and unobtrusively as possible during week 3. During week 6, we will remove any modifications and restore the space to its original condition.

5. Foreseeable Risks or Discomforts

The overall risk level of participation in this study is minimal. It is no greater than the risk of communicating with your child over videoconferencing in a non-research setting. However, because we are collecting videos of system use, there are some potential risks associated with psychological distress and loss of privacy.

The following care will be taken to mitigate these risks to you:

- Reminding at each visit that you can elect to stop the study and to only share information that you would be comfortable possibly sharing in court.
- You can flag video of any given interaction over the ShareTable to be deleted.
- Placing the ShareTable in a space that is considered to be your child's space in the home (*e.g.* bedroom, playroom, etc.) to minimize inadvertent transmissions.
- Destroying audio and video records after transcribing and coding, removing all identifiers from the transcripts and logs
- Keeping all data and files secure and accessible only to authorized personnel
- Anonymizing data before presenting to the research community

Additionally, introducing the ShareTable may make it difficult for you to return to previous ways of interacting. Though we cannot give you the ShareTable, we will do our best to help you recreate some of its functions using off-the-shelf technology.

6. Benefits

There are no direct benefits to you from participation in this study. However, indirect benefits may include learning more about the way your family interacts and maybe contributing to the design of systems for similar families.

7. Compensation/Costs

There are no costs for participating in the study other than the time you take to answer our questions, possible loss of privacy because of recordings of system use, and inconvenience during the process of the installation and removal of the ShareTable.

At the end of the study, each parent will be provided with a check for \$150 and a \$20 gift card to a toy store (suggested as compensation to the child). Halted participation will be compensated in proportion to the number of weeks completed.

8. Confidentiality

All data that is collected about you will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. But we cannot prevent authorized access of this data, such as being subpoenaed by a court of law. Videos that are marked for deletion will be deleted without being viewed by the researcher. Paper notes and questionnaires will be kept in locked files and only study staff will be allowed to look at them. Digital files will be kept on a secure lab computer that only authorized personnel will be able to access. Your name or any other fact that might identify you will not appear when results of this study are presented. To make sure that this research is being carried out in the proper way, the Georgia Institute of Technology IRB may review study records.

9. Injury/Adverse Reactions

Reports of injury or reaction should be made to Gregory D. Abowd (the faculty advisor) at (404) 385-0257. Neither the Georgia Institute of Technology nor Professor Abowd has made provision for payment of costs associated with any injury resulting from participation in this study.

10. Contact Persons

If you have questions about the research, call or write Gregory D. Abowd at:

Gregory D. Abowd
College of Computing
Georgia Institute of Technology

Atlanta GA 30332
(404) 385-0257

11. Voluntary Participation/Withdrawal

You have rights as a research volunteer. Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. If you do not take part, there will be no penalty. You, the child's other parent, or your child may elect to discontinue participating at any time to stop the study. If you have any questions about your rights as a research volunteer, call or write:

Melanie J. Clark
Office of Research Compliance
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, GA 30332
(404) 894-6949

12. Signatures

Your signature below indicates that the researchers have answered all of your questions to your satisfaction and that you consent to participation in this study.

Participant's Printed Name: _____

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Investigator's Signature: _____ Date: _____