

Georgia Institute of Technology

Human Subject Consent and Release Form

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

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

4. Procedure

We will ask your child to join you 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 your child to do the following:

- Week 1:
 - Learn about the study and decide whether to participate
- Week 1 & Week 7:
 - Answer 2 questionnaires about long-distance communication with you and the other parent
- Week 3:
 - Help you decide where to 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:
 - Attempt using the ShareTable to communicate with the remote parent. The ShareTable will record videos of you using the system together, however you can flag any video for deletion without being viewed by marking it on your diary form.
- Week 1-9:
 - Keep a special diary of any long-distance communications with you or the other parent. The diary involves selecting choices from several pictures or drawing a new picture.

- 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 allow your child 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 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 record videos of system use. Any videos you do not want seen can be marked for deletion and will not be seen by the researchers.
- 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 your child.

5. Foreseeable Risks or Discomforts

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

The following care will be taken to mitigate these risks to your child:

- Reminding at each visit that your child can elect to stop participating
- Placing the ShareTable in a space that is considered to be your child's space in the home (*e.g.* bedroom, playroom, etc.) to maximize his or her privacy
- Destroying audio and video records after transcribing and coding, removing all identifiers from the transcripts and logs
- Reminding at each visit to only share information your child would be comfortable with the researchers, both parents, and a judge potentially seeing
- Letting you flag any video of system use for deletion without being seen by the researcher

Additionally, introducing the ShareTable may make it difficult for your child 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 your child 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 time your child takes to answer our questions, possible loss of privacy due to the recordings of interaction with the system, and inconvenience during the process of the installation and removal of the prototype system.

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

8. Confidentiality

All data that is collected about your child 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. Any videos that you flag for deletion will be deleted immediately 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 child's name or any other fact that might identify your child 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

Your child has rights as a research volunteer. Taking part in this study is completely voluntary. If your child does 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 child's 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 your child's participation in this study.

Parent or Legal Guardian--Print Your Name Here

Parent or Legal Guardian--Sign Your Name Here

Date

Investigator's Signature

Date