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**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTION PROGRAM**  
**INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT**

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**Title of Research Study:** To Enact, To Tell, To Write: A bridge to expressive writing through digital enactment

**Investigators:**

- Niloofar Zarei, PhD Student ([n.zarei.3001@tamu.edu](mailto:n.zarei.3001@tamu.edu))
- Dr. Francis Quek, Professor of Visualization Department ([quek@tamu.edu](mailto:quek@tamu.edu))

**Funded/Supported By:** This research is funded/supported by The National Science Foundation.

**Why your child is being invited to take part in a research study?**

Your child is being asked to participate because you as a parent showed interest and responded to the announcement sent out to you through email. Your child is being asked to participate because they fit the age range of the study.

**What should you know about a research study?**

Your child is being asked to join a research study. A research study is a science project that is trying to answer a question. This research project is trying to see how children write a story and think about the creative writing process. Whether you allow your child to take part is up to you. You may choose to not allow your child to participate. You can agree to allow your child to take part in the study and later change your mind and this will not count against you or your child. You may ask all the questions you want to before deciding to let your child participate.

**Who can I talk to?**

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, talk to the research team at [n.zarei.3001@tamu.edu](mailto:n.zarei.3001@tamu.edu).

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Texas A&M Institutional Review Board (IRB). You may talk to them at 1-979-458-4067, toll free at 1-855-795-8636, or by email at [irb@tamu.edu](mailto:irb@tamu.edu), if:

- You cannot reach the research team.
- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- You have questions about your rights as a research participant.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.

**Why is this research being done?**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the ways in which a child writes a fictional story while using a system developed by the research team. The child will benefit from this study by having the opportunity to experience a new way of writing fictional stories that are cartoon based.

**How long will the research last?**

We expect that you will be in this research study for approximately 1.5 hours in a single session.

**How many people will be studied?**

We expect to enroll about 40 children in this research study and conduct the studies remotely via video call.

***What happens if I say “Yes, I want my child to be in this research”?***

If you agree to allow your child to participate, they will be participating in a study session for approximately 1.5 hours total. If it is okay with you and you agree to enroll your child in this study, they will be asked to use an app to watch a cartoon and write a story. We will record video and audio from your child in this process from the computer webcam. Finally, we will ask them to answer some questions on paper and in a few interviews. In one of these interviews, we will go over how they wrote their story. Here is all that they will be asked to do, in order:

- Watch a tutorial on how to use the application
- A questionnaire and brief interview
- Have a practice session with the application
- Write a story with the app, for no more than 45 minutes
- A questionnaire and interview about their experience with the application
- A review of a recording of them writing their story, where we ask them questions about how they wrote it

**Location:** Anywhere of your preference, where you have access to a webcam-enabled computer and internet connection. We will contact you via video call and send you the link to enter the application.

**Time:** Will be determined and scheduled by you (the parent) and your child’s availability.

***What happens if I do not want my child to be in this research?***

Your child can leave the research at any time and it will not be held against them.

***What happens if I say “Yes”, but I change my mind later?***

Your child can leave the research at any time and it will not be held against them. Data obtained prior to the termination of your child’s participation will still be analyzed and used for scholarly publications if applicable.

***Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me or my child?***

There should be minimal to no risks involved beyond those normally found in daily life.

***Will being in this study help me or my child in any way?***

Possible benefits include experiencing new ways of writing stories and watching fun cartoons.

***What happens to the information collected for the research?***

Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your personal information, including research study and other records, to people who have a need to review this information. We cannot promise complete privacy. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the TAMU HRPP/IRB and other representatives of this institution. Data collected will be used for scholarly publication and be kept under lock and key where only those on the research team will have access. All data will be destroyed three years after the study.