

Official Project Title:
Developing Inclusive Youth: Promoting Intergroup
Friendships and Inclusive Classrooms in Childhood

NCT:
Not Yet Assigned

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Dear Parents or Guardians:

We invite your child to participate in a project conducted by the University of Maryland Social and Moral Development called *Developing Inclusive Youth*. The goal of this project is to evaluate a program designed to increase friendships and school belonging as well as facilitate positive discussions regarding diversity and inclusion in peer contexts. We have successfully implemented the program in 24 classrooms in MCPS. We would like to ask permission to include your son or daughter for this project.

Specifically, student participation in the program involves viewing animated, voice-over peer scenarios in a web-based curriculum tool. Students decide who to include when the characters are discussing an activity together such as playing a game at recess, doing a school project, watching a movie at home, or playing a game at the park. The situations are drawn from every-day encounters. Children decide how each character feels and the reasons for their decisions. There are two different classroom groups. For half of the classrooms participating students will take a survey twice, and for the other half students will take the survey plus use the web-based tool and participate in a teacher-led classroom discussion.

All children will be asked to complete a survey on their thoughts about topics of friendship, attitudes towards different groups, and general feelings of school belongingness, once at the beginning and once at the end of the study. This survey will take approximately 25 minutes for children to complete and is composed of questions interspersed with pictures. Trained research assistants from the University of Maryland will be present to answer any questions or concerns from children during survey administration.

Participation is strictly voluntary. All information is confidential. **Please look over the description below. If you are willing to have your child participate in the project, please fill out the information in the survey.**

The information from our past research and our work with children and schools has helped teachers, policy makers, counselors and school administrators design curriculum and interventions to promote mutual respect among children and positive social environments for all children. This current research project has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at the University of Maryland. We thank you, in advance, for reading this letter, and for your willingness to allow your daughter/son to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Killen".

Melanie Killen, Ph.D.
Professor of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology

University of Maryland College Park

Project Title	Promoting Positive Friendships in Youth		
Purpose of the Study	This research is being conducted by Dr. Melanie Killen at the University of Maryland, College Park. We are inviting your child to participate in an evaluation of a program designed to facilitate productive discussions regarding diversity and inclusion in peer contexts.		
Procedures	Your child will be given a survey that will take approximately 25 minutes to complete at the beginning and end of the 8-week curriculum. Trained research assistants from the University of Maryland will answer any questions. One classroom at each grade will be randomly assigned to one of two options: 1) Survey-only, or 2) Survey plus program and classroom discussion. All participants will fill out a short 25-minute study survey about peer relationships and school belonging, once at the beginning and once at the end of the project. For the program option, children will view 15-minute scenarios drawn from every-day school and home peer encounters. Children will be introduced to characters in the story and will be prompted to respond to several questions and make predictions about what the characters should do. Following the scenario, children will engage in a short teacher-facilitated classroom discussions about the story and what they learned.		
Potential Risks & Discomforts	There are no reasonably foreseeable risks to individuals who participate in this study. All responses will be stored in locked cabinets and on secure, password protected servers provided by the University of Maryland. In the unlikely event of a breach of confidentiality, there remains a minor risk that individuals' responses to the questions would be traceable through their participant ID numbers. UMD generated IDs will be assigned to each child participating in the program to protect confidentiality.		
Potential Benefits	There are no immediate benefits from participation in this study. We hope that in the future, teachers, parents, and childcare workers will be able to learn from this research and use it to help improve children's social experiences		
Confidentiality	Your child's name will not be attached to their response on the survey or curriculum tool. The classroom discussions will be audio recorded for clarity and analyses of children's exchanges. No identifiable information will ever be made available regarding children's classroom discussions. Recordings will be de-identified, and after five years the original data will be destroyed. Your child will be given an ID number. A description of this clinical trial will be available on http://www.ClinicalTrials.gov , as required by U.S. Law. This Web site will not include information that can identify you. At most, the Web site will include a summary of the results. You can search the web site at any time. We will not share your child's answers with anyone, including teachers, principal, or parents. If we write a report or article about this research project, your child's identity will be protected. All responses and recordings will be stored on secure, password protected, servers provided by the University of Maryland. Your child's information may be shared with representatives of the University of Maryland, College Park or governmental authorities if your child or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.		
Right to Withdraw & Questions	Your child's participation is completely voluntary. Your child can ask any questions at any time. Your child may decide to stop participating at any time and will not be penalized or lose any benefits. Participation is not a school or class requirement. If you decide to stop taking part in the study, if you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or if you need to report an injury related to the research, please contact the investigator, Dr. Melanie Killen, Department of Human Development & Quantitative Methodology, 3942 Campus Dr., Suite 3304 College Park, MD 20742-1131. Telephone: 301-405-3176. Email: mkillen@umd.edu		
Participant Rights	If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or wish to report a research-related injury, contact: University of Maryland College Park Institutional Review Board Office 1204 Marie Mount College Park, Maryland, 20742. E-mail: irb@umd.edu ; Telephone: 301-405-0678 . This research has been reviewed according to the University of Maryland, College Park IRB procedures for research involving human subjects.		
Statement of Consent	Your signature indicates that you are at least 18 years of age; you have read this consent form or have had it read to you; your questions have been answered to your satisfaction and you voluntarily agree to allow your child to participate in this research study. You will receive a copy of this signed consent form. If you agree to allow your child to participate, please sign your name below. Children: you will be asked if you agree to participate verbally at the start of the study.		
	1. Child's Name	2. Child's birthday	3. Today's Date
		____/____/____	____/____/____
	4. Parent/Guardian Name	5. Parent/Guardian Signature	
	6. Child's Grade	7. Child's Classroom Teacher	
<i>The following questions are optional and are used to ensure that we have a representative sample of participants.</i>			
8. Child Gender: Girl: _____ Boy: _____ Other: _____			
9. Language(s) Spoken at Home (check all that apply):			
English: _____ Spanish: _____ Other(s) (please write in): _____			
10. Child Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply)			
Black/African-American: _____ White/European-American: _____ Latino/Hispanic: _____			
Asian-American/Pacific Islander: _____ Native American: _____ Multiracial/Multiethnic: _____ Other: _____			

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11. Please mark each parent or guardian's highest level of education:

Parent 1: Mother: _____ Father: _____ Other: _____

Parent 1's highest level of education: Didn't graduate high school: _____ High school graduate/GED: _____

Some college: _____ Bachelor's Degree: _____ Graduate Degree: _____

Parent 2: Mother: _____ Father: _____ Other: _____

Parent 2's highest level of education: Didn't graduate high school: _____ High school graduate/GED: _____

Some college: _____ Bachelor's Degree: _____ Graduate Degree: _____