

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
PARENTAL/PRIMARY CAREGIVER CONSENT FORM
Positive Youth Development in the Metaverse

Researcher Statement:

You and your child are being asked to take part in a research pilot study. The information in this form will help you decide if you want to be in the study. Please ask the researcher(s) below if there is anything that is not clear or if you need more information.

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Key Information:

- This study is funded by the National Institutes of Health.
- The study aims to providing equitable access to high-quality afterschool programming using virtual reality (VR) technology and to test whether it can go above and beyond gaming and entertainment to provide rich educational opportunities for children.
- To participate in this study, your child must be age 11-14 and be participating in the Boys and Girls Club afterschool program in the Athens area.
- If you and your child agree to participate in the study,
 - a) At their afterschool program, your child will wear a smartwatch (bangle.js) to take care of a virtual dog and learn about data science and promote STEM learning using their physical activity data, play in virtual reality (VR) wearing a Meta Quest3 and a heart rate monitor on the non-dominant arm, and answer 15-minute online pre- and post-surveys.
 - b) You will answer 15-minute online pre-and post-surveys.
- This study is 6 weeks long.
- You may receive up to \$30 in gift cards for participating in the study.
- There is some amount of risk such as tripping or other forms of contact with the real environment that is hidden from view or feeling nauseated or experiencing vertigo while using the VR system.
- Participation is voluntary and you may choose not to participate or to stop at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.
- There are no direct benefits to caregivers in participating in the study. Some children may benefit from participating in the VR integrated content designed to promote positive youth development.
- Your family can be physically active, practice setting goals, and engage with fitness technology at home on your own or guided by your primary health care provider if you do not wish to participate in this study.

If you are interested in participating in the study, please read the study information in this document, and feel free to ask questions at any point.

Study Procedure and Time Commitment:

If you and your child agree to be in the study:

Your child will:

- Wear a smartwatch device during all waking hours for 6 weeks. Data from the wearable will be automatically synced to the research team's computer.

- Be in charge of taking care of a virtual dog through their smartwatch throughout the 6 weeks; this interaction will involve the child tapping the watch screen.
- Play in VR (wearing a Meta Quest3) at their afterschool program throughout the 6 weeks.
- While engaged in VR activities, your child will be asked to wear a Polar Verity Sense optical heart rate monitor on their non-dominant arm to measure their physical exertion during these activities.
- Get the opportunity to learn about data science and promote STEM learning using their physical activity data collected on the smartwatch. They will participate in afterschool activities that are developed to enhance children's physical, social, and mental well-being. The virtual reality interactions and a virtual agent will help children set and meet activity goals.
- Return their assigned device(s) to UGA at the end of the study. Researchers will collect the assigned devices at the Boys and Girls Club of Athens location.

You, as the primary caregiver:

- May receive email or text message reminders from study staff regarding the study.

You AND your child will be asked to:

- Participate in measurement sessions [15 minutes each]
 1. One baseline survey on a tablet or online at the start of the study.
 2. One post survey on a tablet or online at the end of the study.

Study Duration:

The study is 6 weeks long in total.

Incentives for Participation:

Each participating family will be able to receive up to \$30 in gift cards for their time in the study. Specifically, we will provide the following incentives upon the completion of each measurement session described above:

- \$10 e-gift cards will be distributed to each participating family via email for the parent/guardian and child completing the baseline survey, and an additional \$20 e-gift card will be distributed via email for the parent/guardian and child completing the post survey.
- You may still keep the e-gift cards you received even if you terminate your participation within the 6-week study.
- If you have more than one child participating, you will receive separate e-gift cards for each participating child

Voluntary Participation:

Participation is voluntary but would be greatly appreciated. You may refuse to participate before the study begins, and discontinue at any time, with no penalty or loss of benefits. If you decide to withdraw from the study, the information that can be identified as you/your child's will be kept as part of the study and may continue to be analyzed, unless you make a written request to remove, return, or destroy the information. Your decision whether to participate in the research will not impact your Boys and Girls Club of Athens program.

Potential Benefits

There are no direct benefits to caregivers in participating in the study. Some children may benefit from participating in the VR integrated content designed to promote positive youth development. What is learned from this research has the potential for helping other children and families in the future. It will help inform the feasibility of future studies using this technology. Your child may learn about pursuing their own motivations and goals for relationship building, physical activity, skill development appropriate for using interactive and immersive communication technologies and data interpretation, and physical activity, which may enhance the child's well-being.

Another option to get the Benefits:

Your family can be physically active, practice setting goals, and engage with fitness technology at home on your own or guided by your primary health care provider if you do not wish to participate in this study.

Privacy Protection:

All data and study-related information will be handled and secured by the investigators.

- All the information recorded on surveys and interviews and the data collected from the devices will be kept in a password-protected server. The data will be used for research purposes only. The researchers will replace your names with a number that can only be linked to you by members of the research team. The list that shows your name and number will be destroyed once data collection for the study is complete. Until that time, the list will be kept confidential and only a few researchers will have access to the information.
- Researchers will not release identifiable results to anyone other than individuals working on the project without your written permission, unless required by law.
- This research involves the transmission of data over the Internet. Every reasonable effort has been taken to ensure the effective use of available technology; however, confidentiality during online communication cannot be guaranteed.
- 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 this Web site at any time.

Certificate of Confidentiality

This research is covered by a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health. The researchers with this Certificate may not disclose or use information, documents, or biological data that may identify you in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other action, suit, or proceeding, or be used as evidence, unless you have consented for this use. Information protected by this Certificate cannot be disclosed to anyone else who is not connected with the research except, if there is a federal, state, or local law that requires disclosure. This means that we were trained to do our best to keep the information your

share with us in private (confidential) as long as it doesn't risk your and someone else's safety. However, if we learn about abuse of a child or elderly person or that you intend to harm yourself or someone else, or about certain communicable diseases, we will report that to the proper authorities. The information collected in this study may be used/shared after identifiers have been removed with other researchers and/or for future studies without additional consent.

Research-Related Injury

The researchers will exercise all reasonable care to protect your child/adult you represent from harm as a result of his/her participation. In the event that any research-related activities result in an injury, the sole responsibility of the researchers will be to arrange for your transportation to an appropriate health care facility. Your medical expenses will be your responsibility or that of your third-party payer, although you are not precluded from seeking to collect compensation for injury related to malpractice, fault, or blame on the part of those involved in the research. If you think that you have suffered a research-related injury, you should seek immediate medical attention and then contact Dr. Sun Joo (Grace) Ahn right away at 706-542-4791.

What if you have questions about this study?

The main researcher conducting this study is Dr. Sun Joo (Grace) Ahn, a professor at the University of Georgia. Please ask any questions you have now. If you have questions later, you may contact Dr. Ahn at sjahn@uga.edu or 706-542-4791. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your or your child's rights as a research participant in this study, you may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) Chairperson at 706- 542-3199 or irb@uga.edu.

Research Subject's Parental/Primary Caregiver Permission to Participate in Research

To voluntarily agree to take part in this study, and to agree that your child can take part if they would like to, you must print and sign your name below (if signing your form electronically online: by typing your name in the box and selecting you 'consent to participate,' this will act as your signature). Your child still has the right to decide whether or not they want to participate. Your signature indicates that you have read this entire parental/primary caregiver permission form and have had all of your questions answered.

If you agree to participate in this research study, please sign below:

_____	_____	
Printed Name of Parent/Primary Caregiver	Signature	Date

Printed Name of Participating Child		
_____	_____	
Printed Name of Researcher	Signature	Date