



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR QUT RESEARCH PROJECT Children and Parents

Piloting a makerspace for the Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child QUT Ethics Approval Number 4289

Research team

Principal Researcher:	Dr Christina Chalmers – Researcher
Associate Researchers:	Professor Annette Woods – Researcher
Queensland University of Technology (QUT)	Professor Susan Danby – Researcher
	Professor Michael Dezuanni – Researcher
	Amanda Levido – Researcher
	Aleesha Rodriguez – Researcher
	Irina Silva – Researcher

Why is the study being conducted?

This research project is being undertaken as part of activities related to the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child (COE for the Digital Child), a seven-year research project based at Queensland University of Technology. One of the activities related to the COE for the Digital Child is the Children's Technology Centre (CTC), a space for young children (0-8 years) to engage with technology and making activities. The space will also be open to the parents/families and educators of young children, university students, and other partners and community members who engage as part of the COE for the digital child.

The purpose of this project is to allow the researchers who are tasked with setting up the CTC the opportunity to pilot activities in the space. These workshop activities will relate to LEGO/robotics and maker activities. You are invited to participate in this research project because you have registered your interest in you or your child participating in an activity workshop in the CTC.

What does participation involve?

Your child's or your own participation will involve:

- Engaging in LEGO/robotics and maker activities.
- Allowing the researchers to make copies of any products or artefacts that you or your child produce during the workshop.

You might also be asked to consent to:

- Being audio recorded, or your child being audio recorded, during the workshop. The researchers will check in with you and with your child, before the audio recorder is switched on.
- Being video recorded, or your child being video recorded, during the workshop. The researchers will check in with you and with your child, before the video recorder is switched on.
- Being photographed during the workshop, or your child being photographed. The researchers will check in with you and with your child, before they begin to take photos.

Your participation and your child's participation, in this research project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate, or for your child to participate, you can withdraw from the research project without comment or penalty. You can withdraw anytime during the workshop and the researchers will not collect anymore data from you or your child. Your decision to participate or not participate, or to allow or not allow your child to participate, will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT or with the Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child.

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

It is expected that this research project will benefit you and your child by providing the opportunity to be involved in fun, engaging and educative activities. We expect that you and your child will learn more about LEGO and robotics. The outcomes of the research may also benefit the Centre of Excellence because piloting the workshop activities is important to ensure that the CTC space is set up effectively to allow future research to be conducted there. The researchers will also benefit because they will learn more about how children and adults engage in a makerspace.

You can find out more about the outcomes of this study and other COE for the Digital Child activities by registering for the COE for the Digital Child newsletter on the consent form.

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

There are some risks associated with participation in this research project. These include inconvenience related to the time taken to participate in the workshop activities. The activities will be fun, engaging, and educative and as you are attending the workshop voluntarily the researchers think

the risk of you or your child feeling inconvenienced is low. You or your child might also feel some mild discomfort at being audio or video recorded, or having photos taken during the workshop. The researchers will check in with you and your child before they start recording and you can let them know if you have any concerns or don't want to go ahead. The researchers will understand and will stop collecting the data.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored until 31 December 2028 and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

For the audio and video recorded data and photos, every effort will be made to ensure that the data provided cannot be traced back to you or your child in reports, publications and other forms of presentation. For example, the researchers will only include the relevant part of a quote, they will not use any names, or names will be changed, and/or details such as dates and specific circumstances will be excluded. Nevertheless, while unlikely, it is possible that if you or your child is quoted directly your identity or your child's identity may become known to people who know you.

For the workshop artefacts and photographs, every effort will be made to ensure that you and your child are not identifiable. For example, the researchers will aim to capture images of people at work without identifying faces, and tabletop activities and papers.

As the research project involves an audio and/or video recording, please note that:

- Only the researchers will have access to the recording. You may be asked to consent to your image being used in presentations. This would only be shared if you agreed to this by signing an image release. It is possible to participate and not consent to your image being used in presentations.

Data collected as a part of this project may be used by the researchers in other similar projects.

The research project is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) as part of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. They will have access to reports about this project but will not have access to data obtained during the study.

How do I give my consent to participate?

We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form (enclosed) to confirm your agreement to participate and your child to participate. We have also included a consent form for your child.

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact one of the listed researchers:

Dr Christina Chalmers c.chalmers@qut.edu.au 07 313 83516
Professor Annette Woods annette.woods@qut.edu.au 07 313 83184

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.