

University of Oklahoma - Norman Campus Informed Consent Form
For the
Public School Principal
Early Childhood Collaborative of Oklahoma (ECCO)
Center Validation Study, Phase II

Dear Principal,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our study of the Oklahoma Stars program. The title of our study is "*Center Validation Study, Phase II*". The study, conducted by Loraine Dunn at OU and Deborah Norris at OSU, is funded by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Division of Child Care. This document is your consent to participate in the study. As explained on the telephone, the purpose of the study is to learn about the *Reaching for the Stars* program. We hope that the information gained from the study will help Oklahoma and other states considering differential reimbursement find ways to make child care better for children, families, and the staff who serve them. Our research team will come to your school on two occasions and visit classrooms that contain child participants from the "Validation Study: Phase II" to observe the classroom environment and the teacher. The classroom(s) will be visited once for 3-4 hours and a second time to conduct child assessments.

We will also ask the lead teachers in the identified classroom(s) to complete several questionnaires about the teacher's background, and his or her ideas about teaching young children. The questionnaires for the teacher whose classroom we observe will take about 30-45 minutes to complete. We will supply envelopes in which to put the questionnaires. Please seal them shut to protect your confidentiality. Each observed teacher will receive \$30. All adults participating in the study must be at least 18 years of age.

All of the information we receive from your teacher(s) will be kept confidential. No one but members of the research team will be allowed to see this information. Our research reports will not identify individual schools, classrooms, or teachers: the reports will only include averages of all programs across the state.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and will not have any effect on your employment. Participating in the study will not involve any risks beyond those encountered in everyday life. If you agree to participate you may change your mind and stop your participation and that of your center at any time without any negative consequences. Just call one of us at the numbers below. Again, there will be no negative consequences if you do so. Call us if you have any questions about the study. You may also contact the Office of Research Administration at the University of Oklahoma, 405-325-4757, if you have any questions about your rights as a participant in the study.

We may be able to continue studying the child care centers and elementary schools participating this year for another two years to continue learning about the Stars program. If we are able to obtain the funding needed to do so, we may ask you if you are willing to continue participating.

Thank you for your help,

Loraine Dunn,
Principal Investigator
405-325-1509

Stacy Dykstra,
Project Director
405-325-5969

Consent Statement:

I agree for my school to take part in this research study. I understand my participation is voluntary and that I may choose to stop my participation and that of my school at any time without penalty or loss of benefits.

_____ I agree for my school to take part in this research study.

_____ I do not agree for my school to take part in this research study.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name of School _____

* PLEASE Include a copy of your business card when you fax this informed consent back to the ECCO Office. Thank you. FAX#: (405) 325-6148.