

Yale *Center for Emotional Intelligence*

Spring 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to be partnering with your school on a research project that involves your child's classroom. The title of the research project is: The Yale RELATE Project. The purpose of this research project is to develop a tool for understanding the interactions that occur in classrooms such as your child's.

One or more members of our research team will be spending some time in your child's classroom observing what happens throughout the day. We will not interfere with classroom instruction but will stand on the periphery of the room and take notes about the behaviors of the teachers and the students in the classroom, with the goal of better understanding effective teaching and learning practices. In our notes, we will describe the behaviors we observe without using the names of the students or the teachers.

We also plan to film the classroom in order to fully capture the teaching and learning processes. We are requesting your permission for your child to appear in the footage. The film footage will be used only for the purpose of the current Yale University research project: to assess the teaching and learning practices and climate of the classroom. The videotapes will never be available to the public. The tapes will be erased or destroyed once the research is completed.

All information collected by the Yale research team is completely confidential. The identity of your child will be protected always. No one will see the film footage except the Yale research team. Information about an individual child will never be published or shared with the school, the students, or their parents or families. Film footage will be stored in a locked storage unit in the Principal Investigator's laboratory at Yale University. All information will be grouped with other students' data, analyzed, and may be published in summary form.

The Yale Research Team will sponsor a parent meeting at your child's school at the beginning of the study, to further explain the study's goals and to answer any questions you may have. After the study's completion, we will sponsor another parent meeting to describe the study's findings.

Participation in the research is voluntary, and your child may withdraw at any time without penalty. There is a space at the bottom of this form where you can sign to indicate you allow your child to participate.

Please keep one copy of this sheet and sign the other copy. Then, please return the form to your child's teacher.

If you would like more information or if you have any questions or concerns about this project or your child's rights as a research participant, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Christina Crowe of Yale University's Department of Psychology at christina.crowe@yale.edu, or the Project Director, Dr. Tia Barnes, at tia.barnes@yale.edu or 203-432-2676 (toll-free: 1-866-609-3031). The Yale University Human Subjects Committee can be reached at human.subjects@yale.edu or 203-785-4688 (toll-free: 1-866-609-3032).

Sincerely,

Christina Crowe and the Yale University Research Team

I have read this letter explaining the purpose of the research study being conducted in my child's classroom. I have been provided with a copy of this letter for my records. My signature below indicates that I agree to allow my child, _____, to participate in the research study outlined above.

Child's Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Teacher Name (please print)