

**Early Learning STEM Australia (ELSA)****Consent form – 2019 ELSA Pilot**

Dear Parent / Legal guardian,

Your child's preschool service has been selected to take part in the 2019 ELSA Pilot.

The ELSA Pilot is a play-based digital learning program for children in preschool to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) practices and concepts.

ELSA has been developed by the University of Canberra through funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training under the National Innovation and Science Agenda. Professor Tom Lowrie from the University of Canberra will lead the pilot, which is delivered via hands-on activities and educational apps on tablets. The apps encourage children to ask questions, make predictions, experiment, and reflect on what happened and why. They also encourage active play that supports creativity and problem solving. Each child will participate in a maximum of 40 minutes screen time per week (broken up into smaller sessions).

As ELSA is a pilot, the Department of Education and Training has engaged the Australian Council for Educational Research to undertake an evaluation of the design and implementation of ELSA during 2019.

In order for your child to participate in the 2019 ELSA Pilot, we need your consent. You can choose the level of involvement your child will have in the pilot by completing the two parts below.

The ELSA team values your child's privacy. Below we have outlined how your child's personal information will be collected, stored and used.

**Privacy: How the 2019 ELSA Pilot will collect, store and use data**

- Your personal information is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988*, and is collected by the University of Canberra for the purpose of running the ELSA Pilot.
- The University of Canberra will collect and use the personal information of children and parents/legal guardians for the specific use of the ELSA Pilot only. The personal information collected will include your child's name and date of birth, as well as your name and signature.
- All data collected as part of the pilot will be:
  - stored on secure servers in Australia, with a unique number assigned to each child (no personal information is being sent overseas); and
  - de-identified (removing names of children) before being used in reports or published in academic papers.
- Data and personal information may be used and disclosed by the University of Canberra to the Department of Education and Training, the Australian Council for Educational Research,

[www.canberra.edu.au](http://www.canberra.edu.au)

Postal Address:

University of Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

Location:

University Drive Bruce ACT

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and the ELSA app developers – including Stripy Sock and Mode Games – for the purpose of delivering and evaluating the ELSA Pilot only.

- No names or other identifying material collected as part of the pilot will be used for publicity without further consent from a child’s parent or legal guardian.
- If you do not consent to the collection of your and your child’s personal information, your child will not be able to participate in the ELSA Pilot.
- You can get more information about the way in which the University of Canberra will manage your personal information, including requesting a copy of our privacy policy, by emailing [team@elsa.edu.au](mailto:team@elsa.edu.au).

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### Consent from parents / legal guardians

(Note: ELSA apps are designed for children in the year before formal schooling – generally those aged four or five in 2019).

If your child is **4 or 5** in 2019, go to **Part 1a**. Otherwise, go to **Part 1b**.

#### **Part 1a – Participation (for children aged 4 or 5 in 2019)**

Choose ONE of the options below by ticking the appropriate box:

- I give consent for my child to fully participate in the 2019 ELSA Pilot. This includes my child using the ELSA apps, and my child's usage data being recorded for research and evaluation.
- I give consent for my child to use the ELSA apps, but request that no usage data be recorded.
- I do not wish my child to use the ELSA apps, but give my consent for my child to participate in the off-app ELSA activities.

#### **Part 1b – Participation (for children NOT aged 4 or 5 in 2019)**

Choose ONE of the options below by ticking the appropriate box:

- I give consent for my child to participate in the ELSA Pilot. Note: No data will be recorded for this age group.
- I do not wish my child to use the ELSA apps, but give my consent for my child to participate in the off-app ELSA activities.

#### **Part 2 – Sign and date**

I have read and understood the information provided about the 2019 ELSA Pilot and my child's participation in it. I also understand that:

- I am free to withdraw my consent at any time; and
- any personal information collected in the course of the ELSA Pilot will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act. Names and other identifying personal information will not be published without my further consent.

I give consent for my child \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) to be involved in the 2019 ELSA Pilot to the extent of 'Participation' I have ticked above.

My child attends the following preschool service: \_\_\_\_\_



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Legal name of parent / legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** This project has ethical clearance from University of Canberra (#15-51). Any queries about the project should be directed to [team@elsa.edu.au](mailto:team@elsa.edu.au) or phone 1800 931 042.

If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the project you may also contact the Secretary, University of Canberra Human Research Ethics Committee, phone (02) 6201 5220 or email [humanethicscommittee@canberra.edu.au](mailto:humanethicscommittee@canberra.edu.au).

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.

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