



**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Education Studies Department**  
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PERMISSION FORM

Spring 2021

Dear Early Childhood Center Director:

Your center is being invited to participate in a research study to build engineering content and pedagogical knowledge among early childhood educators and students. Participation in this study is completely voluntary. Please understand that there is no requirement to participate and if you choose to participate, you may withdraw participation at any time without consequence.

This research project is to examine the effect of professional development on engineering content and pedagogical knowledge for Pre-K classroom teachers and its impact on Pre-K students' engagement and learning in engineering. The study is being conducted by the associate professor Dr. Tingting Xu from Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU), collaborating with The Kinectory in Round Rock, TX. We request permission for your teachers to participate in this study, which is scheduled from July 19 to 23, between 8am to 12pm each day, located at the Wingate Conference Center in Round Rock, TX. The study consists of a professional development series, surveys, interviews, and analysis of the students' performance tests. At the conclusion of the study, data will be reported as group results and only pseudonyms will be used.

This study is low risk for participation. Teachers are invited to participate in a weeklong professional development workshop, complete pre-and post-surveys, and participate in focus-group interviews. Students in their classrooms will also be invited to complete pre-and post-surveys. By participating in this research study, your Pre-K teachers will be equipped with quality engineering content, pedagogical skills, and will benefit greatly from many free STEM resources for their classrooms.

There is also a future research study that is planned with the same focus but will include additional professional development sessions and resources for teachers and their classrooms. This study will begin the following year starting in Summer 2022. We would like to have your consent of participation for this study as well.

We have attached another copy of this letter. Keep one copy of this letter for your records. If you have concerns or questions about this current study and future research project, please contact the researcher: Dr. Tingting Xu, [xut@sfasu.edu](mailto:xut@sfasu.edu), 936-468-1603. This research study has been reviewed and approved by the SFASU Institutional Review Board (IRB). Any concerns for this research may be directed to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS) at 936-468-6606.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tingting Xu

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 Please check off the statement(s) below and sign to allow your center to participate in this research study and in future study. Sign both copies of this letter and keep one for your records and return the other to Lexa Jack, program director of The Kinectory. Thank you!

- I allow my center to participate in this research study scheduled in July, 2021.
- I allow my center to continue to participate in the future research study starting in Summer 2022.

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 Signature of Center Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name of Center Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date