

Participant Information Sheet

“Play Days”: Establishing an evidence-based approach for early years creative play across Morecambe

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www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection

I am a researcher at Lancaster University and I would like to invite you to take part in a research study about creative play between adults and children. The study is called “Play Days: Establishing an evidence-based approach for early years creative play across Morecambe” and it explores how organisations can offer new or better experiences for parents/carers and their children by observing how they play together.

Please take time to read the following information carefully before you decide whether or not you wish to take part.

What is the study about?

This study aims to offer an opportunity for parents/carers and children aged 0-5 to engage with one another through creative play by coming to a play session. These sessions will be led by experienced play practitioners and artists, and will be observed by a researcher from Lancaster University. It is a new partnership between Lancaster University and two arts organisations in Morecambe (Good Things Collective and More Music). We hope that, by capturing experiences of the play sessions, we can understand how to offer new experiences or make new interactive artworks in Morecambe that will be fun, exciting and creative.

Why have I been invited?

I have approached you because I am interested in understanding how creative play sessions can offer meaningful interactions between adults and children.

I would be very grateful if you would agree to take part in this study.

What will I be asked to do if I take part?

If you decided to take part, you would be invited to come to a 2-hour play session with your child at Good Things Collective/More Music. This session will cover a range of different art forms (dance, sculpture, music) and would be run by experienced play facilitators. You'll be invited to join in creative activities like music-making and sensory play. The sessions will be attended by other parents/carers and their children, a bit like attending a group at an arts organisation. Other attendees will also be part of the study. These sessions will be observed by a researcher from Lancaster University, and other members of staff who will be joining in with the activities. You will be asked to complete a short survey after the session.

Sessions will be video recorded and photographed by the researcher so that we can better understand how we can offer valuable creative play experiences in the future.

- The whole session will be videoed on a portable device, meaning that everyone taking part will be captured. These videos will only be available to the primary researcher (me) and 1 member of staff at Good Things Collective and More Music. They will never be shared publicly.
- Photographs will be taken to document detail (for example, a moment of focused music making). They will never include faces. I will always ask your verbal permission before taking a photo (e.g. "would it be OK to take a photo?"). Photographs may be shown when sharing the research more widely (e.g. in journals or at conferences), but only with your consent. You do not have to consent to this to take part in the study.

Filling in a consent form before coming to the session will mean that we are aware of your preferences. You may even discuss this with your child beforehand. We ask that you bring along a completed form (which is circulated along with this information sheet) and sign it at the beginning of the session.

What are the possible benefits from taking part?

Taking part in the study will help Lancaster University, Good Things Collective and More Music to make their early years sessions more creative, exciting and meaningful in the future. It will also help us to design new interactive artworks which offer new creative experiences for audiences in Morecambe. Your insights will help us to understand what kinds of activities provide the most engaging and meaningful play between parents/carers and their children.

Do I have to take part?

No. It's completely up to you to decide whether or not you take part. Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw during the session, without giving any reason. We understand that sometimes, young children also change their minds about joining in for lots of different reasons. If your child needs to leave the session for any reason, this is absolutely understandable.

What if I change my mind?

As explained above, you are free to withdraw at any time and if you want to withdraw, I will extract any data you contributed to the study and destroy it. Data means the information, views, ideas, etc. that you and other participants will have shared with me. However, it is difficult and often impossible to take out data from one specific participant when this has already been anonymised or pooled together with other people's data. Therefore, you can only withdraw up to 6 weeks after taking part in the study.

It is also important to note that your data from images and survey responses may be deleted, but it may be more difficult to remove data from video recordings, since they will capture the whole session.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Though the sessions will be run by experienced play facilitators and they should be enjoyable to attend, they will also be attended by a researcher from Lancaster University and staff from Good Things Collective and More Music. This may make the play sessions feel a little formal. Taking part will also mean investing around 10 minutes of your time completing a survey after the session has finished.

Will my data be identifiable?

After the play session, only I (the researcher conducting this study) and 1 member of staff each from Good Things Collective and More Music will have access to the data you share with me.

I will keep all personal information about you (e.g. your name, your child's name and other information about you that can identify you) confidential, that is I will not share it with others. I will never use any video recordings, and I will only use images with no identifiable features (e.g. faces, logos, tattoos) with your consent when sharing this study (e.g. at conferences).

I will anonymise survey responses. This means that I remove any personal information. All reasonable steps will be taken to protect the anonymity of the participants involved in this project. However, it is important to note that, as the play sessions will be attended by other participants, I cannot guarantee anonymity from other attendees.

How will my data be stored?

Your data will be stored in encrypted files (that is no-one other than me, the researcher will be able to access them) and on password-protected computers.

I will keep data that can identify you separately from non-personal information (e.g. your views on a specific topic).

In accordance with University guidelines, I will keep the data securely for a minimum of ten years.

How will we use the information you have shared with us and what will happen to the results of the research study?

I will use the data you have shared with only in the following ways:

I will use it for academic purposes only. This will include (academic publications, for example journal articles). I may also present the results of my study at academic conferences.

When writing up the findings from this study, I would like to reproduce some of the views and ideas you shared with me. When doing so, I will only use anonymised quotes (e.g. from your survey), so that although I will use your exact words, you cannot be identified in our publications.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Lancaster University Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Ethics Committee.

What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any queries or if you are unhappy with anything that happens concerning your participation in the study, please contact myself or Dr Nathan Jones via the following details:

Dr Ellie Barrett, associate lecturer in Fine Art
Lancaster University School of Arts, Lancaster University, Bailrigg, LA1 4YW
01524 524475



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Dr Nathan Jones, senior lecturer in Fine Art,
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If you have any concerns or complaints that you wish to discuss with a person who is not directly involved in the research, you can also contact:

Dr Jen Southern, director of studies for Fine Art
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Thank you for considering your participation in this project.