Dear Parent,

My name is Dr. Greg Walsh and I am a researcher at the University of Baltimore. I am excited to work on a technology design team at the University of Baltimore with children. In this research experience, children will design new technologies for their peers with other children as design partners using art supplies and technology-based tools. Children will be asked to join graduate students, undergraduates, and other staff and faculty to form this design team. Your child was selected for possible involvement in this experience. Your son/daughter may be excited by technology, is verbal about what they are thinking, feels comfortable with new experiences, and works well with teams.

Participation in this design team will involve the following:

1. Your child will attend the design team meeting for approximately 3 hours per week at the group’s meeting times.
2. Your child will be an active participant in this research team having an active say in what gets developed by the team for children.
3. Your child will work with researchers in visualizing new ideas, creating new ways to work together, and improving existing technologies through design activities.
4. Your child does not need extensive computer experience to participant on this team, just that they are genuinely excited by this opportunity to develop new technologies with researchers that have experience in interaction design, education, information architecture, computer science, and art.

Please note that all participation is voluntary. Any time that your child is uninterested in being a part of a design team activity they will be free not to participate. If at any time your child would no longer like to be a part of the design team, they are free to end their experience. Also note that any research that is developed by the design team may be published in books, journals, videos, or as conference papers. Your child as a design team participant will never be identified with his or her real name. Your child will not be pictured in a publication unless otherwise agreed upon by you on the form below. However, your information may be shared with representatives of the University of Baltimore or governmental authorities if your child or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.

There are no known risks associated with participation in this research project. Instead, we believe that the involvement of your child in such a team has many benefits. Your child may acquire new technology skills, further develop team collaboration skills, enhance their creative problem-solving skills, feel good about himself or herself as a person, and perhaps have a lot of fun. None of the benefits are promised by the researchers, but have been seen in other children who have been a part of such similar experiences. In addition, it is hoped that the work of this research team will include designing technologies that can better serve children in their learning and play in the future.

If you have any questions about this research project at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr. Greg Walsh

Division of Science, Information Arts, and Technologies

1420 N. Charles St.,

Baltimore, MD 21201

Academic Center, Room 200H

For questions about rights as a participant in this research study, contact the UB IRB Chair: Eric Easton, Chair, University of Baltimore Institutional Review Board, 410-837-4874, eeaston@ubalt.edu.

I agree to have my child participate in the above-described research.

Name of Child:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_My child may be photographed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_My child may be video recorded

Name of Parent or Guardian: Signature:

Contact Phone Number & E-mail Address: