

University of Maryland College Park



Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology  
Melanie Killen, Ph.D.  
3942 Campus Drive, Suite 3304  
Office: 301.405.3176  
College Park, MD 20742-1131

Email: [mkillen@umd.edu](mailto:mkillen@umd.edu)

Dear Parents or Guardians:

We are pleased to invite your child to participate in a new research project on how children think about sharing resources in academic contexts. This study is being conducted by Dr. Melanie Killen, Dr. Einat Elizarov, and our team at the University of Maryland's College of Education.

If you give your child permission to participate, your child will be asked to view brightly illustrated pictures on a laptop screen and listen to a hypothetical story about characters who go to school together. Your child will be asked to evaluate the characters' reasons for how to share resources, such as books and crayons, with children who have different motivations for receiving the supplies. Your child will also be asked to decide what they think is the best way to distribute the educational resources between potential recipients. All children will be told that there are no right or wrong answers, and that we are interested in what they have to say. By asking children about this topic, we gain valuable information about age-related changes pertaining to how children incorporate contextual factors when deciding to share resources in academic contexts.

Trained research assistants from the University of Maryland will conduct the interviews. The interview is a one-time administration and will take about 25-30 minutes to complete. All interviews will be audio recorded and participation is strictly voluntary. All information is confidential.

Students who have participated with us in the past have found this interview to be an enjoyable experience. **Please look over the description on the reverse side of this letter. If you are willing to have your child participate in the project, please fill out the information and return the form to the director.**

The information from our past research and our work with children and schools has helped teachers, counselors and school administrators design curriculum and interventions to promote mutual respect among children and positive social environments for all children. This current research project has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at the University of Maryland. We thank you, in advance, for reading this letter, and for your willingness to allow your child to participate.

Sincerely,

Melanie Killen, Ph.D.  
Distinguished University Professor  
Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology

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Project Title	Resource Allocation in Academic Contexts	
<b>Purpose of the Study</b>	This research is being conducted by Dr. Melanie Killen and Dr. Einat Elizarov at the University of Maryland, College Park. We are inviting your child to participate in this research project because they are between the ages of 4- to 11-years-old and can successfully complete the procedure (described below). We are conducting this project to help understand how children incorporate contextual factors when deciding to share resources in academic contexts.	
<b>Procedures</b>	Your child will be interviewed for 25-30 minutes in a quiet area designated by the site administrators. This interview may be during school time. We will work directly with teachers to minimize the possibility of students missing any instructional/lesson time. Trained research assistants from the University of Maryland will give the interviews and answer any questions. Interviews will be audio recorded. Your child will be told stories using illustrated pictures on a computer and asked to evaluate different reasons that the characters give to explain why they are asking for various class resources (e.g., “What do you think about the reason this child had when he asked for the additional crayons that were left in the bag? Why?”). There are no right or wrong answers.	
<b>Potential Risks &amp; Discomforts</b>	There are no known risks of this study. A foreseeable risk of participating in this study is the potential for discomfort or boredom from answering questions. This risk is mitigated by using fun, animated displays. Participants may skip any question they do not wish to answer or withdraw their participation any time.	
<b>Potential Benefits</b>	This research is not designed to help your child personally, but to help us learn about children’s social decision-making processes in the educational context. This knowledge will help us learn more about how children think about deservingness and need in academic contexts, and how these changes with age. We hope that in the future, teachers, parents, and childcare workers will be able to learn from this research and use it to help improve children’s social understanding and experiences.	
<b>Confidentiality</b>	Your child’s name will not be attached to the interview. Your child will be given an ID number. We will not share your child’s answers with anyone, including teachers, principal, or parents. If we write a report or article about this research project, your child’s identity will be protected. All responses will be stored in locked cabinets and on secure, password protected, servers provided by the University of Maryland. Only research team members approved by the University of Maryland IRB will have access to your child’s data, de-identified. Identifiable information will be destroyed after 5 years. Your child’s information may be shared with representatives of the University of Maryland, College Park or governmental authorities if your child or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.	
<b>Right to Withdraw &amp; Questions</b>	Your child’s participation is completely voluntary. Your child can ask any questions at any time. Your child may decide to stop participating at any time and will not be penalized or lose any benefits. Participation is not a school or class requirement. If you decide to stop taking part in the study, if you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or if you need to report an injury related to the research, please contact the investigator, <b>Dr. Melanie Killen, Department of Human Development &amp; Quantitative Methodology, 3942 Campus Dr., Suite 3304 College Park, MD 20742-1131. (telephone) 301-405-3176 (email) mkillen@umd.edu</b>	
<b>Participant Rights</b>	If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or wish to report a research-related injury, contact: University of Maryland College Park Institutional Review Board Office 1204 Marie Mount Hall, College Park, Maryland, 20742. E-mail: <b>irb@umd.edu</b> ; Telephone: <b>301-405-0678</b> . This research has been reviewed according to the University of Maryland, College Park IRB procedures for research involving human subjects (IRBNet package #2354852-1). For more information regarding participant rights, please visit: <a href="https://research.umd.edu/irb-research-participants">https://research.umd.edu/irb-research-participants</a> .	
<b>Statement of Consent</b>	Your signature indicates that you are at least 18 years of age; you have read this consent form or have had it read to you; your questions have been answered to your satisfaction. You will receive a copy of this signed consent form if you provide your email below. If you agree to allow your child to participate, please check the box that indicates you consent to have your child participate and sign your name below. You are also advised to take a photo of this completed consent form before returning it to the research team if you wish to keep a copy for your records. Children will be asked for verbal assent at the start of the study after obtaining parental consent.	
<b>1. Child’s Name:</b> _____		<b>2. Child’s Date of Birth:</b> _____ / _____ / _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I consent to have my child participate <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I do <b><u>NOT</u></b> consent to have my child participate		<b>3. Today’s Date:</b> _____ / _____ / _____
<b>4. Parent’s Signature:</b> _____		
If you would like to receive a copy of this form, please <b>enter your email here:</b> _____		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The following questions are <b>optional</b> and are used to ensure that we have a <b>representative sample</b> of participants.</i></p>		
<b>5. Child Gender:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8. Approximate family</b>	<b>9. Parent’s <u>highest</u> level of education:</b>

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<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Girl</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Boy</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"><b>6. Child's Grade Level</b></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> K-class</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 1</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 2</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 3</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 4</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Grade 5</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"><b>7. Child Race/Ethnicity:</b> (Check all that apply)</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Black/African-American</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> White/European-American</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Asian-American/Pacific Islander</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</div>	<b>annual income:</b> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$30,000</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$60,000</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-\$90,000</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> \$90,000-\$120,000</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> \$120,000-\$150,000</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000-\$180,000</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> \$180,000-\$210,000</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> More than \$210,000</div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div style="width: 45%;"><b>Parent 1:</b><div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">(Circle One) Mother / Father / Other _____</div></div><div style="width: 45%;"><b>Parent 2: (if applicable)</b><div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">(Circle One) Mother / Father / Other _____</div></div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Didn't graduate high school</div><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Didn't graduate high school</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate/GED</div><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate/GED</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Some College</div><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Some College</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree</div><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Education</div><div style="width: 45%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Education</div></div>
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