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## The Early Childhood Development and Learning Collaboration ('CoLab') 'The Early Years Parent App' Project

### Participant Information Form

You are invited to participate in an online survey to provide information that will inform and validate a smartphone app for The Early Childhood Development and Learning Collaboration's ('CoLab') team at Telethon Kids Institute.

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The project is being conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute, The University of Western Australia. The research team conducting this research project include the following investigators: Prof. Donna Cross, Jean Perkins, Rebecca Nguyen, Helen Monks, Samantha Baker, Anna MacTiernan and Alana Papageorgiou.

#### **What is this project about?**

Hosted by the Telethon Kids Institute and funded by the Minderoo Foundation, CoLab actively responds to the need to accelerate the implementation of practical and relevant early childhood research outcomes to those who need it most throughout Australia.

CoLab aims to bring together the community, practitioners, teachers, educators, government and researchers to improve evidence-based service delivery that meets the needs of vulnerable children, families and communities.

One of the projects to be delivered by CoLab is the development of a smartphone app that will provide evidence-based information for childhood learning and development. This smartphone app will target parents or carers of children aged between 0 – 8 years and focus on providing quick support and accessible "in the moment" information that aims to enhance caregiver/child relationships. Parents and caregivers will better understand their child's development and provide the right kind of assistance and environment to assist in their child's mental and physical growth.

#### **What does participation involve?**

As an expecting (pregnant) person, or carer or parent of a child aged between 0 - 8 years old (inclusive) and living in Western Australia, you are invited to participate in this project by completing a 15-minute online survey about your thoughts and experiences of accessing parenting information and potential features you would like to see in the smartphone app. The results from the survey will assist the project team to develop the smartphone app that will deliver key information and features that is relevant, and meets the needs of the community. Participants completing the survey have the option of entering a draw to win one of five \$20 Coles/Myer vouchers.

#### **Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal from the Study**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Should you no longer wish to be involved, you are free to



withdraw at any time without explanation or justification by contacting the Project Coordinator Ms Rebecca Nguyen on (08) 9489 7807 or email [Rebecca.nguyen@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:Rebecca.nguyen@telethonkids.org.au).

### **Your privacy**

All project-related information including participant information will be treated in a confidential manner and be stored securely at the Telethon Kids Institute's password-protected electronic database or locked in the project manager's office and will only be accessed by the research team.

We are required to store the data for a minimum of 7 years after publication or project completion, or until the participant has reached 25 years of age (whichever is later), after that time it will be destroyed.

The information and data gathered from this study may be published, however the identity of participants will not be disclosed at any time. Participant privacy and the confidentiality of information provided by participants, is assured at all other times. The data will be used only for this project, and will not be used in any extended or future research.

### **What are the possible benefits of this research project?**

The smartphone app aims to provide parents with information about their children's learning and development as well as supporting services that they may wish to contact. By having a better understanding of their child's development, CoLab aims to enhance their parent/child relationship and assist in their child's physical and mental growth.

### **Are there any risks in participating in this research project?**

There are no foreseeable risks associated with taking part in this project.

### **Who do I contact if I wish to talk about the project further?**

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this study with a member of the research team, please contact me on 9489 7777 or email [Donna.Cross@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:Donna.Cross@telethonkids.org.au) or Rebecca Nguyen on (08) 9489 7601 or email [rebecca.nguyen@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:rebecca.nguyen@telethonkids.org.au).

### **How do I get involved?**

If you are interested in participating in this project, please click on the link provided on the website consent to the project and to access the online survey.

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia with reference number RA/4/1/4100, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on (08) 6488 4703 or by emailing to [humanethics@uwa.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@uwa.edu.au). All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.