

Curiosity in the classroom:

Exploring influences of curiosity and broader supports for learning



We are researchers from the University of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University interested in studying how schools can support children's learning by engaging their natural curiosity about the world. Your child's school is helping us with a research project, and your child can help us, too. Read on to find out how, and please contact us with any questions!

WHAT ROLE DOES CURIOSITY HAVE IN CLASSROOM LEARNING?

Curiosity can promote motivation, learning, and academic achievement; but many questions remain about how to support and leverage curiosity for academic success:

- What instructional methods and other classroom factors support student curiosity?
- How does curiosity vary across individuals and academic content areas, and over time?
- How does curiosity contribute to academic learning outcomes, both in terms of academic content learning and other domain general outcomes, such as problem solving and reasoning, persistence and mindset, and general feelings about learning and school?

CURIOSITY IN THE CLASSROOM STUDY

Your child's teacher is participating in a study to help us learn more about curiosity and learning. We are trying to better understand how to promote curiosity and the role it plays in education and student learning. This study will take place during the school day, as a part of their normal classroom instruction.

HOW IT WORKS

If you allow your child to participate, they will play curiosity and creativity games with researchers while they are at school. These games help us learn more about curiosity and creativity in students and will take about 25 minutes. We will communicate with your child's teacher to schedule a time to play these games. It is completely up to you and your child whether you would like to participate! We will not share information about your child with anyone, and we will only describe what we learn from all children as a group.

- **Consent:** To give permission, we have a form attached, and found online at <https://tinyurl.com/CuriosityUVA2>. You can fill it out ahead of time, or ask any questions you have first over email or during the scheduled session. You may also return the attached form to your child's teacher or fill it out online – it's up to you (you don't need to do both).
- **Compensation:** After completing the session your child will receive a book.

Curiosity Survey

Your child can also participate in a short survey. If you allow your child to participate, they will answer questions using a picture scale to tell us more about their curiosity. The survey will take place during class and be supervised by your child's teacher and a member of the research team.

- **Consent:** To give permission, we have a form attached, and found online at <https://tinyurl.com/CuriosityUVA>. You can fill it out ahead of time, or ask any questions you have first over email or during the scheduled session. You may also return the attached form to your child's teacher or fill it out online – it's up to you (you don't need to do both).
- **Compensation:** Your child will receive a small toy.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jamie Jirout, Ph.D. jirout@virginia.edu 412-996-2253

UVA IRB Protocol # 2998 Project Title: Character development in classroom

Project Title: Character development in classrooms
Parent Consent – Survey
Paper form

Parent/Guardian Informed Consent Agreement

Please read this consent agreement carefully before you decide to participate in the study.

Protocol #: 2998

Project Title: Character development in classrooms

Purpose of the research study: The purpose of this research is to study children's curiosity and how they feel about learning and school.

What your child will do in the study: Your child will complete a survey on a computer. They will answer questions (presented both with text and audio) using a picture scale to tell us more about their curiosity and creativity. This activity will take place in school.

Time required: The study will require up to 30 minutes of your child's time in each of up to three sessions spread across the school year.

Risks: There are no expected risks in this study.

Benefits: There are no direct benefits to your child for participating in this study. The study may help us understand what makes children curious, and how we can help children want to explore and learn.

Confidentiality: Your family's privacy is important to us. We protect your personal information in many ways. First, we keep your child's information in a password protected program. Also, we analyze and report our research across groups of data. We won't report your child's individual data. Your child's name and your name will never be used in any report.

Voluntary participation: Your family's participation in this study is completely voluntary. Your child's grades and school status will not be affected by the study.

Right to withdraw from the study: You have the right to withdraw your child from the study at any time without penalty. Your child is free to stop at any point during the study. If you or your child decide to withdraw from the study, all your child's data collected thus far would be destroyed.

How to withdraw from the study: If you and/or your child want to withdraw from the study, please tell the researcher, or if it is not during a session, you can contact Jamie Jirout, jj3wc@virginia.edu. Your child's teacher can also help you contact us to withdraw from the study.

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Payment:

Your child will receive a small toy after completing the survey.

Using data beyond this study: Information collected as part of this study might be used to explore related questions, such as whether the games your child played can tell us about their creativity or learning preferences. Any identifying information (such as your name/your child's name, contact information, etc.) connected to the information you/your child will provide will not be included in stored data.

If you have questions about the study, contact:

Jamie Jirout

Principal Investigator

University of Virginia

School of Education and Human Development (EHD)

250 Ridley Hall

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Telephone: (434)924-0835

Email: jj3wc@virginia.edu

To obtain more information about the study, ask questions about the research procedures, express concerns about your participation, or report illness, injury or other problems, please contact:

Tonya R. Moon, Ph.D.

Chair, Institutional Review Board for the Social and Behavioral Sciences

One Morton Dr Suite 500

University of Virginia, P.O. Box 800392

Charlottesville, VA 22908-0392

Telephone: (434) 924-5999

Email: irbsbshelp@virginia.edu

Website: <https://research.virginia.edu/irb-sbs>

Website for Research Participants: <https://research.virginia.edu/research-participants>

UVA IRB-SBS # 2998

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Agreement:

If you would like to fill this consent form out online, you may do so at:

<https://tinyurl.com/CuriosityUVA>

I agree to allow my child to participate in the research study described above.

(please circle one) YES I GIVE PERMISSION NO I DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please print Your Full Name: _____

Child's Full Name: _____

Child's Gender: _____ Child's birthdate: _____

School Child Attends: _____

Child's teacher/class: _____

Would you like us to email you updates about this research? YES NO

If yes, please print your email address: _____

Project Title: Character development in classrooms
Parent Consent – Individual Sessions
Paper form

Parent/Guardian Informed Consent Agreement

Please read this consent agreement carefully before you decide to participate in the study.

Protocol #: 2998

Project Title: Character development in classrooms

Purpose of the research study: The purpose of this research is to study children's curiosity and how they feel about learning and school.

What your child will do in the study: Your child will play several games with a trained researcher. Some are computer games where children can choose to hear fun facts or solve a mystery. Others include thinking of different ideas, drawing, or solving problems. All games are designed to help us understand how children think and learn. We may audio- or video-record the session with your child. You can specify how the recordings will be used in a separate permission form, attached.

Time required: The study will require up to 30 minutes of your child's time in each of three sessions spread across the school year.

Risks: There are no expected risks in this study.

Benefits: There are no direct benefits to your child for participating in this study. The study may help us understand what makes children curious, and how we can help children want to explore and learn.

Confidentiality: Your family's privacy is important to us. We protect your personal information in many ways. First, we keep your child's information in a password protected program. Recordings will be labelled with a code instead of a name and are not connected to personal information.

Also, we analyze and report our research across groups of data. We won't report your child's individual data. All video or audio recordings of your child will be kept private unless you give us specific permission to use them, such as for teaching or research presentations. Your child's name and your name will never be used in any report.

Voluntary participation: Your family's participation in this study is completely voluntary. Your child's grades and school status will not be affected by the study.

Right to withdraw from the study: You have the right to withdraw your child from the study at any time without penalty. Your child is free to stop at any point during the

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study. If you or your child decide to withdraw from the study, all your child's data collected thus far would be destroyed.

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Payment:

If your child completes the session at school, they will receive a book of their choice from a wide selection available the day of the study. If your child completes the session at home via Zoom, they will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card.

Using data beyond this study: Information collected as part of this study might be used to explore related questions, such as whether the games your child played can tell us about their creativity or learning preferences. Any identifying information (such as your name/your child's name, contact information, etc.) connected to the information you/your child will provide will not be included in stored data.

If you have questions about the study, contact:

Jamie Jirout

Principal Investigator
University of Virginia
SEHD/CASTL
250 Ridley Hall
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I agree to allow my child to participate in the research study described above.

(please circle one) **YES I GIVE PERMISSION** **NO I DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION**

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please print Your Full Name: _____

Child's Full Name: _____

Child's Gender: _____ **Child's birthdate:** _____

School Child Attends: _____

Child's teacher/class: _____

Would you like us to email you updates about this research? **YES** **NO**

If yes, please print your email address: _____

Please indicate below whether you **do** or **do not** give us permission to use your child's video or still photos made from the video in each of these ways:

In presentations to classes at UVA	Yes	No
In presentations of the research at professional meetings	Yes	No
In professional publications describing the research	Yes	No
In future studies with other participants	Yes	No
In future research with authorized researchers in a secure data library called Databrary (see attached information)	Yes	No

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More information about Databrary data sharing

What we are asking

We ask your permission to share data from this session in a secure, web-based library called Databrary (databrary.org) sponsored by New York University. The data may include video/audio recordings, photographs, and images; other information about you, your child, or your family such as age, birth date, gender, and ethnicity, and information supplied by researchers who analyze data from this session. We ask your permission to share these data because sharing will lead to faster progress in research.

Giving permission to share data in Databrary is separate from consenting to participate in this research study. You do not have to give permission to share your information in Databrary. If you agree to share data, we also request permission to allow authorized Databrary researchers to show parts of the video or audio we recorded in scientific presentations and/or for informational and educational purposes. You can agree to share your data, but not agree to allow researchers to show portions of it in scientific presentations for information and educational purposes. Your choices will not affect receipt of payment if offered for participation in this or future studies.

Will the information be confidential (kept private)?

No information will be included in the data library about how to contact you or your family. No data files will be identified by anyone's name. However, other people who see the images or hear the voices of people in the recordings may recognize someone. First and/or last names of people may be spoken aloud and recorded. If the study takes place in your home, aspects of your home may be seen or heard. In addition, we may collect other information about you, your child, or your family and store it with the video or audio recordings. Thus, someone who sees the video or hears the audio might be able to identify you, your child, or other people. However, all researchers who have access to Databrary promise to keep private the identities of all people whose data are stored in Databrary.

Who has access to information in the library?

Only researchers will have access to information in Databrary. Researchers must be formally authorized by their employers before gaining access to Databrary. Researchers granted access agree to use the data for scientific research and education but not commercial purposes. Researchers promise to treat data in Databrary with the same high standards of care that they treat data collected in their own laboratories.

How long will data remain in the library?

Data will be preserved indefinitely in a secure location so that future researchers can use it.

What if I change my mind about sharing?

Databrary does not store information that links your identity to specific files. Therefore, if you want to revoke permission to share data or want a copy of data stored on Databrary, you must contact the researcher conducting this study (Jamie Jirout: jj3wc@virginia.edu). If you revoke permission to share, Databrary cannot guarantee that data shared prior to the date you revoked permission can be retrieved.

Where is Databrary located?

Databrary is located in the United States and is accessible over the internet. This means that data stored on Databrary may be accessed, downloaded, and reused by authorized researchers located anywhere in the world.

Parent/Guardian Notification Letter

Dear Parent,

My name is Jamie Jirout and I am leading a research study in your child's class. I study children's curiosity and how they feel about learning and school.

As part of this project, your child's teacher will video record their classroom teaching for up to 10 days and give us these recordings to use for our research. We want to learn more about what children see and hear at school. The focus of these videos is on the teacher, but there might be times where students are visible or can be heard on the video. We will not be measuring anything from what children say or do in the video. Please know that we will protect your child's identity in all materials. These videos will only be used for research purposes, and if they are ever shown, such as for teacher training or at a conference, we will blur the faces of any children in the video clip. We will not share your child's name, the name of your child's school, or the specific location of your child's school. Your child will not do anything outside of their normal classroom activities and there is no risk to your child.

We may use some video, audio, and/or photographs from these videos in our future research or related activities from this project to support our efforts in improving children's learning. The future use of videos would be for research, we would never show a child's face without consent at a conference. We may use the teacher's videos in future research, courses, educational meetings, professional development and/or training materials. Any teacher videos shown at conferences would have child faces blurred. Video data would never be shared publicly. We use a secure platform, databrary.org, to safely make videos available to other researchers studying child development. We have the highest regard and respect for teachers, classrooms, and children. We want to provide a broad view of what education can look like and how teachers carry out instruction in their classrooms.

If you have any questions or concerns about the study, or if you would like to withdraw your child from the study, please contact me at:

Jamie Jirout

Principal Investigator
University of Virginia
SEHD/CASTL
250 Ridley Hall
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Telephone: (434)924-0835

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Sincerely,

Jamie Jirout