



PARENTAL/LEGAL GUARDIAN PERMISSION FOR CHILDREN TO TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

Title of Research: Family Content Creation: Understanding Families' Experiences

Principal Investigator (PI), person in charge of research: Leah Cates, Media Studies PhD student, Rutgers University School of Communication & Information

Note: For simplicity, this form uses plural terms such as "your children" and "they." If you are permitting only one child to participate these terms refer to your individual child.

The information in this parental/legal guardian permission form will provide more details about the research and what will be asked of your children if you permit them to take part in it. If you have any questions now or during the research, you should feel free to ask me (Leah Cates, Principal Investigator), and you should expect me to provide answers you completely understand. After I answer your questions, should you permit your children to take part in the research, I will ask you to sign this permission form. You are not giving up any of your children's legal rights by permitting them to take part in this research or by signing this parental/legal guardian permission form.

Who is conducting this research?

I, Leah Cates, am the Principal Investigator of this research. A Principal Investigator holds overall responsibility for conducting the research. As a PhD student, I am under the close supervision of my advisor, Dr. Amy Jordan, who is a Distinguished Professor in the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers University. I (Leah) may be reached at leah.cates@rutgers.edu or (413) 348-9712. Dr. Jordan may be reached at a.jordan@rutgers.edu or (848) 932-8789. As Principal Investigator, I will also sign this parental/legal guardian permission form and will give you a copy to keep.

Sponsor of the research

This work is sponsored by the Rutgers University School of Communication & Information and the Rutgers University School of Graduate Studies.

Why is this research being done?

My research seeks to give voice to families whose ambitions and careers as content creators are often criticized in public conversations about the social media content creator economy. The present study engages with families to understand their lived experiences with creating family content, as well as how creating such content shapes their offscreen lives and relationships, from the perspective of the families themselves.

Who may take part in this research and who may not?

Families who speak English, have at least one child below age 18, consistently feature family life in their content, and post content at least monthly may take part in this research. Families who do not meet these requirements are not eligible for participation.

Why have my children been asked to take part in this research?

Because they are growing up in a family that creates social media content, your children possess knowledge and lived experiences that may inform research on this growing industry.

How long will the research take and how many participants will take part?

Your children's participation will consist of three day-long family visits by me (Leah), spaced out over the course of one or more months. I will also ask to individually interview each family member, including children ages seven and older, for around one hour each. I will interview your children alone if you and your children are comfortable with my doing so. If you and/or your children are not comfortable with this, however, then I will interview your children in your presence. Because I am observing the entire family, you will likely be present for most of my time with your children during the observational portion.

Although your family's participation will last a total of three days, spaced out at your convenience, my research during this phase of the study will last around five months. During this time, I will observe and

interview other families (your family will be one of approximately five enrolled in this phase of the study). I will also observe your family's online presence and the social media content you create. I might ask your children questions about this content creation during visits.

If the visits go well and your family is interested, I may invite your family, including your children, to participate in additional visits (up to 20 total visits over the course of the study). These extra visits are completely optional. You and your children are under no obligation to do them, and saying no will not affect your family's participation in the first three visits. You and/or your children may choose to stop participating or decline additional visits at any time.

What will my children be asked to do if they take part in this research?

For the most part, I won't ask your children to do anything out of the ordinary; I will simply observe your family, including your children, as you create content and move through your day, both inside and outside your home. I may occasionally ask your children questions about the content creation process and their daily routine, as well as your family's social media output. Your children may choose to skip any questions they do not wish to answer.

During my second or third visit, I will ask to interview each family member that is age seven or older. In your children's interviews, I will ask a series of questions related to their everyday lives and involvement in family content creation. While I will have interview questions prepared, I hope that their interviews will flow like conversations. As with the observation, your children may choose to skip any questions they do not wish to answer. If your family is large, or the interviews are taking a long time, I might request to distribute the interviews between the second and third visit days, or move them to Zoom, on a separate (fourth) day, at a mutually agreed upon time.

With both your and your children's permission, I will record their interviews. If conducted in person, the interviews will be audio recorded only; if conducted via Zoom, the interviews will be both audio and video recorded, as Zoom automatically records video. Additionally, as I observe your family creating content and moving through your day, I might request to audio record select family interactions and/or conversations between me, as PI, and you, as participants. I will always ask your family, including your children, for permission before recording. You and your children do not need to consent to recording for your children to take part in the research. Recording improves the accuracy and depth of my research notes, and it reduces the need for me to take notes, which may distract me as I seek to understand your children's responses and/or your children as they answer questions. Because the recordings will include information that can identify you and your children, including your voices and names, I will not publish them. I will use recordings exclusively for data analysis purposes.

What are the risks of harm or discomforts my children might experience by taking part in this research?

As with any interaction, there is a risk of mild psychological discomfort if the topic of conversation becomes stressful in any way. Your children can, however, choose not to answer any question I ask them, so it is highly unlikely they will experience harm, or even mild psychological discomfort, from taking part in this study. Relatedly, because I'll be spending a lot of time with your family and asking many questions, your children might get tired of answering questions. If this happens, they can tell me, and we'll take a break and/or I will ask fewer questions. In addition, because your family creates public-facing social media content, it is possible that someone who reads publications based on my research might figure out the identity of your children and/or family. So, even though I will use pseudonyms, I cannot guarantee anonymity. There is also a slight risk of a data breach (as with any study). This is unlikely, however, as I will make every effort to protect your children's personal information by storing information that identifies them in my Rutgers University Box account: a cloud-based, password-protected application for securely storing digital files.

Are there any benefits to my children if they take part in this research?

It is possible that your children may not receive any direct benefit from taking part in this study. It is also possible, however, that they will enjoy answering my questions and teaching me about their lives.

What are my children's alternatives if they do not want to take part in this research?

If your children wish to participate in fewer than three days of observational visits (in other words, one or two visits), they may do so. Alternatively, if they do not wish to partake in any observational visits, they may elect to only participate in the interview. Should your children elect to participate exclusively in the interview, I may conduct their interviews via Zoom. Your children may also participate in observational visits without electing to be interviewed.

Will I and/or my children receive the results of the research?

During the research process, I may share some of my observations and findings with your children to see whether they agree with how I'm interpreting things. In addition, if you and/or your children express interest in reading publications based on the research, I will share them.

Will there be any cost for my children to take part in this research?

No. I am grateful for your children's willingness to welcome me into their daily life, as well as to dedicate time to our interview.

Will my children be paid to take part in this research?

Yes. For each one of the first three visits, families collectively receive \$50 per visit. This amount is distributed evenly between your children, who collectively receive a \$25 Amazon gift card in their name, and you as parents, who collectively receive a \$25 Amazon gift card in your name. One family member's decision not to participate or to withdraw does not affect how you and your children will be compensated; in other words, your family will receive \$50 per visit, distributed evenly among children and parents, regardless of which family members are present during a particular visit. For example, if your children do not wish to participate in a visit, your family will still receive \$50, distributed between children (\$25) and parents (\$25).

Your family will also collectively receive \$50 for participating in interviews, regardless of the specific family members that are interviewed. In other words, regardless of whether every family member participates in interviews, or just one family member participates in one interview, the entire family receives \$50, distributed between children (\$25) and parents (\$25).

If your family participates in more than three visits, I will enter your family into a raffle. If your family wins the raffle, you will win two additional Amazon gift cards: one for parents, worth \$62.50, and another for children, worth \$62.50 (total: \$125).

How will information about my children be kept private or confidential?

In resulting publications, I will refer to your children using pseudonyms that you and they may help to select, and I will potentially change or omit minor demographic details about your children and/or family, as well as minor details about your lives. I will make every effort to keep your children's personal information in their research records confidential, including referring to your children with pseudonyms in their research records and linking your children's pseudonyms to their identities on a separate spreadsheet. I will keep all information, including recordings from my interviews and visits with your family, in my Rutgers Box account. I will destroy the spreadsheet containing links to identifiers no longer than seven years after data collection. I will store recordings for three years, after which time I will permanently delete them. As I plan to work with this dataset for some time, there is no plan to delete the rest of the data. Besides me, the only individuals who might have access to your children's recordings and research records are my advisor (Amy Jordan), whose information is included in this form, and other researchers with whom I may collaborate on future projects using this dataset (see below).

I cannot, however, guarantee confidentiality. It is possible that individuals who read publications based on my research might figure out the identity of your children and/or family because your family creates public-facing social media content, although I will do my best to obscure your identity. I may also share your children's information, collected for this research, with the Rutgers University Institutional Review Board and Compliance Boards and the Office for Human Research Protections in the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services if requested by these entities.

I plan to transcribe recordings from this research using artificial intelligence (AI) software. I will carefully review the transcripts for accuracy by comparing them with the original recordings. The Rutgers Institutional Review Board (IRB), which helps to ensure that research is conducted ethically and safely, has approved my use of AI software, and I will take every precaution to protect your children's data, as discussed above. Nevertheless, using third-party AI software always carries a minor risk of data breaches or the AI software provider's using information in ways I can't control.

What will happen to my children's information — data and/or recordings — collected for this research after the research is over?

I may use the information collected for other research that I conduct, including collaborative projects with fellow researchers, following the same processes described above for privacy and confidentiality, without obtaining additional parental/legal guardian permission from you. The researchers would be professionals who have undergone rigorous training in their fields.

What will happen if I do not wish my children to take part in the research or if I later decide that I do not wish my children to stay in the research?

It is your choice whether your children take part in the research. You may change your mind and withdraw your children from the research at any time. If you do not want your children to enter the research, or you decide they should stop taking part, or if your children choose not to partake in the research, they will not be penalized, nor will they lose benefits to which they are otherwise entitled. You may also withdraw your consent for the use of data that's already been collected about your children, but you must do this in writing to Leah Cates (PI) at leah.cates@rutgers.edu before work deriving from the data has been published. Additionally, your children's participation may be discontinued if it appears that continuing in the study would not be in your children's best interest, even if you are willing to have your children stay in the research.

Whom can I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions, concerns or complaints about the research, or if you wish for more information about your children's participation, you can contact the Principal Investigator (Leah Cates, Media Studies PhD student) at leah.cates@rutgers.edu. You may also contact my faculty advisor (Amy Jordan, Distinguished Professor) at a.jordan@rutgers.edu. If you have questions, concerns, problems, information or input about the research, or if you would like to know your children's rights as research participants, you can contact the Rutgers IRB/Human Research Protection Program via phone at (973) 972-3608 or (732) 235-9806 or via email irboffice@research.rutgers.edu, or you can write to the IRB at 335 George Street, Liberty Plaza Suite 3200, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

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Parent or Legal Guardian

I have read this entire form, or it has been read to me, and I believe that I understand what has been discussed. All my questions about this form or this study have been answered.

I am the [] parent or [] legal guardian of the following children and agree for them to take part in this research study.

Child Name (Print): _____
Child Name (Print): _____
Child Name (Print): _____
Child Name (Print): _____
Child Name (Print): _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Investigator/Individual Obtaining Consent

To the best of my ability, I have explained and discussed the full contents of the study, including all the information contained in this consent form. All questions of the research participants and those of their parent or legal guardian have been accurately answered.

Investigator/Person Obtaining Consent Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your signature on the below portion of this form allows me to record your children during their research participation as described above (i.e., audio recording during in-person visits and interviews; audio and video recording during Zoom interviews). I will not use the recordings for any reason besides those stated above without your written consent.

AGREEMENT FOR CHILDREN TO BE RECORDED

Child Name (Print): _____
Child Name (Print): _____
Child Name (Print): _____
Child Name (Print): _____
Child Name (Print): _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Investigator/Person Obtaining Consent Name (Print): _____

Signature _____ Date _____