

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Informed Consent for Participants
in Research Projects Involving Human Subjects

Title of Project: Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Standards for Literacy, Mathematics, Science and History and Social Sciences Preschool Standards: How are they Interpreted and Implemented by Practitioners?
Investigators: Mary Alice Barksdale and Kimberly J. Norris
IRB Approval:

I. Purpose of this Research Project

In this study, teachers will be observed, surveyed and interviewed in order to provide insight into their perceptions, interpretations, and implementation of Virginia's Foundation Blocks. Virginia Foundation Blocks have been formatted to align with early childhood theories. However, the emphasis and implementation of the Foundation Blocks seem to be solely at the discretion of the preschool teacher. Many factors can contribute to how preschool teachers teach. These factors can include educational background, training, pedagogy, years of experience, and knowledge. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to understand how preschool teachers interpret and implement Virginia Foundation Blocks within his/her classroom.

II. Procedures

Participation in the study requires three days of teacher observations, completion of a survey, and an interview be conducted for each participant. The observations will require no special planning or requirements. Teachers will conduct regularly scheduled planned activities. The survey and interview, combined, will take approximately 50 minutes (20 minutes to complete the survey and 30 minutes for the interview). Individual teachers will be contacted, after he/she has agreed to participate in the study, to schedule observation days which will also include the interview and the completion of the survey. Questions and/or concerns will continually be answered and addressed as they arise from the teachers during the entire study process.

III. Risks

There will be no more than the minimal risks involved for the participants in this study. Participants, schools sites and districts will be identified in the study with the use of a pseudonyms and not by actual names. Fieldnotes, interview notes, and surveys will be maintained by the investigator in a locked drawer. Upon completion of the study as well as the investigator's dissertation the data will be destroyed by shredding.

IV. Benefits

The potential benefit to society/preschool community is to gain a better understanding of how Virginia's Foundation Blocks are utilized and implemented by practitioners in the classroom. If the results of the study are published, the study could provide insight into how well the Foundation Blocks are implemented in the classroom or how to revise the Foundation Blocks for improvement, if needed.

V. Extent of Anonymity and Confidentiality

Specific names of individuals, schools and districts will not be reflected in field notes, interviews and surveys. If any identifying information should mistakenly be left in any of these documents the researcher will blacken the information out and/or remove it digitally, if possible. At no time will the researcher release the results of the study to anyone other than the individuals involved in this project without your written consent. Pseudonyms will be used and will be selected as random names that do not relate to the names of the study participants.

VI. Compensation

No financial or any other compensation will be provided for participation in this study.

VII. Freedom to Withdraw

Participants will be free to withdraw from the study at any time. If, after submitting an informed consent form, being observed, interviewed or completing the survey you decide not to participate in the study, contact Kim Norris at knorris@vt.edu.

VIII. Subject's Responsibilities

I voluntarily agree to participate in this study. I have the following responsibilities:

- (1) Allow my teaching to be observed for three days
- (2) Participate in an informal interview conducted by the observer
- (3) Complete an individual survey

IX. Subject's Permission

I have read the Consent Form and conditions of this project. I have had all my questions answered. I hereby acknowledge the above and give my voluntary consent:

Subject Signature

Date