Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure
Parent Letter

Hello Camp Adventure Families,

We would like to thank you for allowing your child (ren) to attend Camp Adventure this summer. We promise to expose them to enriching academic and physical activities to stimulate their mind, body, and soul. We are preparing all our lessons based on IN standards for science and literacy to avoid the summer learning loss many students experience during the summer months. Along with academic lessons, all campers will be involved in team building activities, exercise, and outdoor pursuits (i.e. low ropes course, fishing, archery, etc.). In addition to the experiences listed above, those who choose to participate in the research study will be asked to complete several surveys, questionnaires, and supplemental “at-home” lessons as well as participate in short interviews. The following forms need to be signed and returned: 1) Social Skills Consent for Research; 2) Reading Motivation and Social Skills; and 3) Science Skills.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please contact Dr. Rona Robinson-Hill @ rmrobinsonhi@bsu.edu, Dr. Kathryn Fletcher @ klfletcher@bsu.edu, or Mrs. Stacey Allred @ slallred@bsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rona Robinson-Hill, Co- PI
Assistant Professor in Science Education
Teaching Biology for Education majors
Department of Biology
Mrs. Stacey Allred, Co-PI
Assistant Lecturer
Department of Elementary Education

Dr. Kathryn Fletcher, Co-PI
Department of Elementary Education
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
Telephone: 765-285-8564
Email: klfletcher@bsu.edu
SOCIAL SKILLS
CONSENT FOR RESEARCH

Study Title: Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure

Study Purpose and Rationale
The purpose of this research project is to examine how parents view their child’s summer camp experience has changed their child’s social and emotional skills. Findings from this research may demonstrate how experiences such as Camp Adventure can impact children’s growth in social skills within outdoor settings.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria
To be eligible to participate in this study, you must have a child attending Camp Adventure during the 2020 session.

Participation Procedures and Duration
For this immersive experience, you will be to take three surveys, one during the first week of camp and another during the last week of camp. The surveys ask questions about children’s social and emotional behaviors.

Data Confidentiality or Anonymity
All data will be maintained as confidential and no identifying information such as names will appear in any publication or presentation of the data.

Storage of Data
Paper data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in Dr. Fletcher’s office that is locked in her absence for seven years and will then be shredded. The data will also be entered into a software program and stored on the researcher’s password-protected computer for seven years and then deleted.

Risks or Discomforts
There are no perceived risks for participating in this study. The two surveys are not required for your child’s camp participation, but you are encouraged to complete them.

Benefits
Some possible benefits are to improve our understanding of the benefits of engaging students in summer learning experiences.

Voluntary Participation
Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw your permission at anytime for any reason without penalty or prejudice from the principal investigator. Please feel free to ask any questions of the principal investigators before signing this form and at any time during the study. If you choose not to participate in the study, your responses will not be used and your child can continue to participate in the camp program.

IRB Contact Information
For one’s rights as a research subject, you may contact the following: For questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact the Director, Office of Research Integrity, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, (765) 285-5070 or at orihelp@bsu.edu
Study Title: Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure

Consent
I, ____________________________________________, agree to participate in this research project entitled, “Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure.” I have had the study explained to me and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I have read the description of this project and give my consent to participate. I understand that I will receive a copy of this informed consent form to keep for future reference.

__________________________________________  ______________
Participant’s Signature                      Date

Researcher Contact Information

Stacey L Allred
Principal Investigator:
Mrs. Stacey Allred
Department of Elementary Education
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
Telephone: 219-689-2764
Email: slallred@bsu.edu

Kathryn Fletcher
Co-Investigator
Dr. Kathryn Fletcher
Department of Elementary Education
Ball State University
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**READING MOTIVATION AND SOCIAL SKILLS**

*Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure*

*Parental Informed Consent for Participation in Research Activities*

**Why I am being asked to participate?**
Your child is invited to participate in a research study that will reveal how a high-quality out-of-school outdoor learning experience may improve reading motivation and social emotional skills. Your child has been asked to participate in the research because your child is attending Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure; is a resident of Delaware County; and is between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. Your child must attend camp at least 75% of the time. Your child’s participation in this research is voluntary and does not affect their ability to attend camp. If you decide to have your child participate, you are free to withdraw them at any time without any effect on camp participation.

**What is the purpose of this research?**
According to the National Summer Learning Association (2018), the benefits of summer learning for students with regular attendance is associated with a range of positive academic and social development outcomes. The purpose of this study is to examine how students’ experience at camp impacted their reading motivation and social and emotional skills.

**What procedures are involved?**
If you agree that your child may participate in this research, your child will be asked to complete a survey on reading motivation at the beginning and end of camp. Moreover, at the end of each of the four weeks, for their group of children, camp counselors will assess children’s social and emotional behaviors during that camp week. Daily attendance records for your child will also be examined in relation to reading motivation and social and emotional behaviors.

**What are the benefits of participating in this study?**
Although there will be no direct benefits to children, this information will help us to examine the experiences at camp that are contributing to gains in reading motivation and social skills.

**What are the potential risks and discomforts?**
- There will be minimum risks of injury, invasion of privacy and dignity in this program. Participation in all activities will be completely voluntary for both the students and their families.
- Your child will be informed during the assent process that he or she may choose not to answer any question that makes him/her uncomfortable and he/she may quit the study at any time.
- During all camp sessions, there will be supervision by physical and professional facilitators to identify measures of fatigue and/or discomfort by any of the participants.

**How will data collected be stored?**
- We will keep all information under code, disclosed and obtained from the program in a locked cabinet and dispose of the information properly after the completion of the program, for a minimum of seven years.
- All data will be maintained as anonymous and no identifying information such as names will appear in any publication or presentation of the data.
- The data will also be stored on the researcher’s password-protected computer for seven years and then deleted. Only members of the research team will have access to the data.
What are the costs for participating in this research?
There is no monetary cost to the student and family for participation in this research program.

Will I be paid for my participation in this research?
There is no monetary compensation to the student and family to participate in this research program.

Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?
You can choose whether you would like your child to be in this study. Your child may still participate in camp even if he/she is not participating in the study. If you choose for your child to participate, you may withdraw him/her from the study at any time without consequences of any kind. The investigators may withdraw your child from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

IRB Contact Information
For questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact Director, Office of Research Integrity, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306, (765) 285-5052, orihelp@bsu.edu.

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Parental Consent
I give permission for my child to participate in this research project entitled, “Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure.” I have had the study explained to me and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I have read the description of this project and give my permission for my child to participate. I understand that I will receive a copy of this informed consent form to keep for future reference.

______________________________  __________________
Parent’s Signature for Consent for Child to Participate  Date

______________________________  __________________
Parent’s Signature for Participation in Survey  Date

Researcher Contact Information

Principal Investigator: Stacey L Allred
Elementary Education
Ball State University
Muncie, IN  47306
Telephone: (765) 285-5122
Email: slallred@bsu.edu

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Kathryn Fletcher
Educational Psychology
Ball State University
Muncie, IN  47306
Telephone: (765) 285-8500
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The effect of participation in a summer learning program with an emphasis on academic and social skills training can lead to lessening achievement gaps and positively impacting high school graduation rates.

Why I am being asked to participate?
Your child is invited to participate in a research study that will reveal how a high-quality out-of-school outdoor learning experience improves science content knowledge, self-efficacy, interest in science careers, literacy and math skills, and enhance social emotional learning skills. This program will be conducted by Mrs. Stacey Allred and Dr. Rona Robinson-Hill, who are professors at Ball State University. Your child has been asked to participate in the research because your child is attending Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure; is a resident of Delaware County; and is between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. Your child must attend camp at least 75% of the time. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to have your child participate in the research study. Your child’s participation in this research is voluntary and does not affect their ability to attend camp. If you decide to have your child participate, you are free to withdraw them at any time without any effect on camp participation.

What is the purpose of this research?
The GENERAL PURPOSE of this study is to help combat learning losses that occur during the summer months in elementary-aged children. With so many people coming into the workforce today with a varied skill set that does not always include strong leadership skills, collaboration skills, and/or executive skills, the researchers have included these as additional outcomes for the project. According to the National Summer Learning Association (2018), the benefits of summer learning for students with regular attendance is associated with a range of positive academic and social development outcomes.

What procedures are involved?
If you agree to participate in this research, you can expect to:
• Commit to download the SeeSaw app and check it daily to stay informed about your child’s camp day;
• Commit to increase your involvement by doing recommended extension activities at home with your child(ren);
• Ensure that your child will attend Summer Learning Fun at Camp Adventure at least 75% of the time;
• Attend a culminating event with your child and family then complete a camp feedback survey regarding the benefits you observed and know your child gained from participating in the program; and
• Complete a family engagement survey.
In addition, your child will participate in a series of surveys and questionnaires about his/her experiences with science and reading. These will be administered during the camp day in the reading and science sessions.

Finally, researchers would like to compare your child’s ending spring NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) scores in reading with their beginning fall NWEA scores in reading to see if there is a maintenance, increase, or decrease in literacy skills.
What are the benefits of participating in this study?

One benefit your child may gain from participating in this study may be a better understanding of how continuing to read, engaging in physical activity, and exploring the outdoors can help maintain their learning in the summer.

What are the potential risks and discomforts?

- There will be minimum risks of injury, invasion of privacy and dignity in this program. Participation in all activities will be completely voluntary for both the students and their families.

- Your child will be informed during the assent process that he or she may choose not to answer any question that makes him/her uncomfortable and he/she may quit the study at any time.

- During all camp sessions there will be supervision by physical and professional facilitators to identify measures of fatigue and/or discomfort by any of the participants.

How will data collected be stored?

- We will keep all information under code, disclosed and obtained from the program in a locked cabinet and dispose of the information properly after the completion of the program, for a minimum of three years.

- All data will be maintained as anonymous and no identifying information such as names will appear in any publication or presentation of the data.

- The data will also be stored on the researcher’s password-protected computer for three years and then deleted. Only members of the research team will have access to the data.

- If your child decides or you decide to withdraw them from this study, any data collected will be destroyed.

What are the costs for participating in this research?

There is no monetary cost to the student and family for participation in this research program.

Will I be paid for my participation in this research?

There is no monetary compensation to the student and family to participate in this research program.

Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?

You can choose whether you would like your child to be in this study. Your child may still participate in camp even if he/she is not participating in the study. If you choose for your child to participate, you may withdraw him/her from the study at any time without consequences of any kind. The investigators may withdraw your child from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

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__________________________
Parent’s Signature for Consent for Child to Participate  Date

__________________________
Parent’s Signature for Participation in Survey  Date

**Researcher Contact Information**

Principal Investigator:  Co-Principal Investigator:
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Elementary Education  Biology
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