Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are starting a new technology design team at Boise State University with children ages 6-11 years old. The team will design new technologies for kids with kids as design partners. Up to eight children will be asked to join graduate students, undergraduates, and other faculty and staff to form this new design team.

Participation in this new design team will involve the following:

1. Your child must be available Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4-5:30 pm starting September 19, 2017.

2. Your child must be able to be dropped off at Boise State University’s City Center Plaza location Room 343 by 4 pm.

3. Your child will be an active participant in this research team having an active say in what gets developed by the team for children.

4. Your child will work side-by-side with researchers in visualizing new designs, creating new interactive tools on the computer, and brainstorming new ideas.

5. Your child does not need extensive computer experience to join our team, they just need to be genuinely excited by the opportunity to develop new technologies with researchers that have experience in computer science, education, and art.

6. If your child remains an active participant in the design team experience for one year, they will be given a technology gift (valued up to $120) for their efforts in the research.

Please note, that all participation is voluntary. Any time that your child is uninterested in being part of a design team they will be free to stop participating. Any research that is developed by the design team may be published in books, journals, or as conference papers. Your child as a design team participant will not be pictured unless you consent to it.

We believe that the involvement of your child in such a team has many benefits. Your child may acquire new technology skills, further develop team collaboration skills, enhance their creative problem-solving skills, gain confidence, and perhaps have a lot of fun. None of these benefits are promised by the researchers, but have been seen in other children who have been a part of such similar experiences. In addition, it is hoped that the work of this new research team will include designing technologies that can better serve children in their learning and play in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jerry Alan Fails
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