



Grand Canyon University

Institutional Review Board

3300 W. Camelback Rd.

Phoenix, AZ 85017

602-639-7804 | irb@gcu.edu

Date: July 5, 2024

Hello. I am a doctoral learner under the direction of Dr. Esther Silvers at Grand Canyon University. My name is Denise Sidney. I am conducting a research study to explore how early childhood teachers who are enrolled in AA Early Childhood Education programs describe the collaborative learning strategies they are learning and apply those skills in a preschool classroom in Southern Nevada.

INCLUSION- I am recruiting individuals that meet these criteria:

- A resident of the United States.
- Teaching in a licensed preschool classroom for a minimum of 2 years.
- Is a student over 18 years of age.
- Enrolled in an Early Childhood Education Associate of Arts degree program in Southern Nevada.
- Consent to participate in this study.
- Willing to answer demographic questions related to age, gender, location and employment in childcare.
- Willing to be recorded during the interview or focus group.

EXCLUSION- You cannot be in this study if:

- Not a United States resident.
- Under 18 years of age.
- Teaching in an infant/toddler room
- Enrolled in a bachelor's program or higher.
- Not employed in a licensed childcare facility.

The **ACTIVITIES** for this research project will include:

- Read and sign the informed consent form if you agree.
- Complete the demographics questionnaire. This will take no more than 5 minutes.
- Participate in a live and in person interview which will take place in person at a time that works for you and will take about 45-60 minutes.
- Participate in an in person focus group which will take approximately 60 minutes at an agreed upon time for the group.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. After reading this informed consent, you can decide whether to participate in this study or not. Also, if you choose to participate and then change your mind, you can leave the study at any time, even if you have not finished, without any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you decide to stop participation, you may do so by letting the researcher know in writing or verbally. If so, I will not use the information I collected from you.

All data in this study will be protected by the researcher. Interview transcripts and voice recordings. The focus group voice recording, and transcripts will all be stored securely on the researcher's personal computer, in the cloud and on a flash drive, locked in the researcher's safe. After three years, data will be destroyed. Any hardcopy data collected will be scanned into digital copies, stored on the external hard drive, and shredded by a shredding machine.

If you have questions about this study or are interested in participating, please contact me at **DSidney@my.gcu.edu** or by phone at **760-514-7106** for more information and next steps.

Thank you!
Denise Sidney