

Early Learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, at Home Information and Consent.

Purpose of this research

The [ELSA At Home website](#) has been created by the [STEM Education Research Centre \(SERC\)](#) at the University of Canberra as part of the ELSA: STEM in Schools program, funded by the Federal Department of Education.

ELSA At Home has been designed for parents and carers. It provides fun and simple activities that you can do with your child/ren who are in Foundation Year (Kindy), Year 1 or Year 2 as you go about your everyday life.

There are activities that you can do inside your house, outside in the yard or surrounding area, and while out and about in the car.

This ELSA At Home website is just one aspect of the wider ELSA: STEM in Schools program. This program engages children across the early years of schooling in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Its philosophy is that learning programs should be authentically accessible for all children, including those in vulnerable, geographically isolated and non-traditional-learning communities—who have often been excluded from STEM-education opportunities.

Your child does not need to be participating in the ELSA: STEM in Schools program to take advantage of the learning opportunities our website has to offer.

Participation

The SERC team now seeks your consent to participate in an online survey about your use of our ELSA at Home website. We are seeking parents and caregivers who have used any of the activities on this site with your child/ren to provide us with feedback on your experiences using the resource, via a short (10 minute) online survey.

In addition, we will be asking parents/caregivers who have used this website to also participate in a video-recorded interview later this year (approximately 20 minutes).

There is no obligation to be involved in either survey, and you may only choose to participate in the online or video-recorded option.

We aim to use your experiences of using this website to improve our understanding of how to support parents and caregivers with their children's at-home learning opportunities. We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this research; however, possible benefits may include a better understanding of how to support your child's STEM learning experiences at home.

It is not anticipated that there are any risks to participation in this study beyond those encountered in everyday life. If you choose not to participate in this research, this has no impact on your access to the ELSA at Home website.

Data collection and ethics

As part of the ELSA at Home online survey, de-identified data will be collected for evaluation purposes (e.g. to determine how we can improve aspects of the ELSA at Home website). Any information you share with SERC either in the online survey and / or the video interview will be de-identified, so it will be impossible for anyone to identify you, your child, or their school.

The SERC research team (who have developed the ELSA STEM in Schools program) are also interested in analysing this de-identified data for research purposes (e.g. publishing an article in an academic journal or conference presentations). To conduct research, ethical approval is required from our institution, the University of Canberra, on behalf of all of our team members (including from the University of South Australia). Ethical approval has been obtained from the University of Canberra and UniSA to conduct research (see note below).

Please note that any evaluations or future academic publications that draw on any data you provide in the survey and or video-recorded interview will not use any information that could identify a person, school, or state/territory.

NOTE: This project has ethical clearance from University of Canberra and UniSA. Any queries about the project should be directed to Emma Simpson at elsa.schools@canberra.edu.au or telephone 1800 512 225.

If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the project you may also contact the Secretary, University of Canberra Human Research Ethics Committee, telephone (02) 6201 5220 or email humanethicscommittee@canberra.edu.au. Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.