

## Informed Consent for Photographs and Video Footage of Children Attending the University of New Hampshire's Child Study & Development Center

The Child Study and Development Center (CSDC) serves as a laboratory environment for the Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) Department at the University of New Hampshire. As part of our mission, we support university teaching, research, and professional development by offering a demonstration site rooted in best practices in early childhood education and child development.

To help fulfill this mission, classrooms and shared spaces at the CSDC are equipped with video cameras connected to an innovative system called 'VALT' (Video, Audio, Learning Tool). VALT allows us to enhance education, training, and research through live and recorded video and audio. VALT is solely used for educational/instructional purposes.

Children attending the CSDC may be audio/video recorded or photographed for academic, research, or professional purposes. These materials are used in lesson planning, coursework, and action research (a process of identifying and trying out responses to varied hypotheses adults have of children's learning), across a variety of disciplines. Any personally identifiable information will only be captured incidentally within natural video recordings when VALT is being accessed. All video access is coordinated and managed by the CSDC Executive Director and/or Assistant Director. Research projects require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and separate parental/guardian consent.

Faculty, staff, and students participating in CSDC programming, including the use of VALT, sign confidentiality agreements and are strictly prohibited from posting photos, videos, or comments about children on any personal or professional social media platforms or other modes of communication. Any violation of these policies may result in disciplinary action.

UNH undergraduate and graduate students may only use VALT recordings for course assignments with prior approval from the CSDC Executive Director and/or Assistant Director. These students do not have direct access to the system, must sign additional acknowledgment forms, and must follow all UNH and CSDC policies. Any violation of these agreements by students may result in removal from the CSDC program, dismissal from the HDFS department, and/or further university disciplinary action.

### **Video, Audio, and Photography Use at the CSDC**

Children at the CSDC may be viewed live, video/audio recorded, or photographed for educational, professional, or research purposes. This may occur with or without the use of the VALT (Video Audio Learning Tool) system, depending on the context below:

#### **1. VALT-Based Viewing and Recording**

The VALT system is used for live observation and video recordings to support professional development, education and instructional practices, and research. Access is restricted and coordinated by the CSDC Executive Director and/or Assistant Director. Uses include:

- CSDC teachers and staff using VALT to support classroom documentation, reflective practice with their college students, and professional development.
- Scheduled virtual or live learning experiences for early childhood professionals, supervised by CSDC Executive Director and/or Assistant Director.
- UNH faculty and researchers conducting IRB-approved studies (with additional family consent).
- UNH faculty for approved courses for scheduled and/or live learning experiences for their students.

#### **2. Non-VALT Recording (e.g., cameras, cell phones)**

Photography, audio, and video recordings may also occur outside the VALT system for educational and institutional purposes. These include:

- **UNH photographers and videographers** capturing images for university publications or promotional materials (separate from VALT).

- **UNH faculty and CSDC teachers** creating materials for documentation, lectures, academic presentations, or publications.
- **CSDC teachers and staff** documenting classroom experiences, children’s work, family newsletters, or for use in individual files.
- **UNH college students** completing assignments, which may include capturing short video clips or photos (with supervision and proper permission). All captured photographs and/or video/audio clips may not be posted on social media platforms as described above and are required to be deleted at the end of the semester per our confidentiality policy.

All recordings, regardless of method, are conducted in accordance with CSDC and UNH privacy and confidentiality policies. Teachers may disable or pause recordings at any time to support children’s privacy.

All recordings are approved by the CSDC administration to ensure alignment with program policies and privacy protections. UNH retains all rights, title, and interest in these photographs and video footage.

### **Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment**

I acknowledge that, as a condition of my child’s enrollment in the University of New Hampshire’s Child Study and Development Center (CSDC), my child may be photographed, audio or video recorded, or viewed live for educational, research, and professional purposes, as outlined in the CSDC’s Informed Consent Policy. I have read, understand, and accept the conditions described above.

I have read, understand, and accept the conditions noted above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of parent/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of child(ren) enrolled at CSDC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/legal guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **Faculty, Staff, Student Acknowledgment**

I acknowledge that, as a condition of my employment or affiliation with the University of New Hampshire’s Child Study and Development Center (CSDC), I may be photographed or recorded, and may also participate in or facilitate the photographing, video/audio recording, or live viewing of children for educational, research, and professional purposes, as outlined in the CSDC’s Informed Consent Policy.

I have read, understand, and accept the conditions described above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Role