



**NYU**

Human Research  
Protection Program

## RESEARCH INFORMED CONSENT FORM

**STUDY TITLE:** Play in Pediatric OT Practice (IRB-FY2026-10921)

**INVESTIGATOR(S):** Lisa Raymond-Tolan

### INVITATION TO BE A PART OF A RESEARCH STUDY

You are invited to participate in a research study. This form has information to help you decide whether or not you wish to participate - please review it carefully. Your participation is voluntary. Please ask any questions you have about the study or about this form before deciding to participate.

### PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to investigate how pediatric Occupational Therapists use play in their practice. Occupational therapy (OT) is a field that focuses on helping people do the everyday things they need and want to do—what we call occupations. For children, play is their most important occupation. In OT school, learning about play is considered a fundamental skill. This is because the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) views play as a key way children learn, grow, and develop. Even though play is the main job of childhood and is vital for development, past studies have shown a pattern in practice. Research by Couch et al. (1998), and a later replication of that study by Kuhaneck et al. (2013), found that OTs in the US often don't focus on play as a goal in itself. Instead, they tend to use play as a tool or a reward to achieve other specific outcomes, like improving fine or gross motor skills. A recent pilot study (Raymond-Tolan, 2025) looked at how OT schools teach students about play. It surveyed entry-level programs to see how and when they teach about play as a central occupation. The findings showed that OT programs definitely understand that play is valuable both as a crucial activity and as a way to understand the performance skills necessary for child development. Is this educational focus translating into real life OT practice? Since the last major survey was done over a decade ago (Kuhaneck et al., 2013) and the original was nearly three decades ago (Couch et al., 1998), it's important to update this research. We need new studies with OTs who specialize in pediatrics to better understand how they are currently measuring and using play as a primary occupation in their daily work with children.

### ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

You are eligible to participate in this study if you are a US-based pediatric occupational therapist who has worked with children within the last two years. You should not participate if you are not in the US, not a practicing occupational therapist, and/or have not worked with children within the last two years. To determine if you are eligible, we will have you self-confirm within the survey.

### DESCRIPTION OF STUDY PROCEDURES

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a one-time confidential online Qualtrics survey about how you use play in your practice that will take around 10-15 minutes to complete.

### RISKS OR DISCOMFORTS

This study involves the following risks or discomforts: There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to participating in this study. No identifying information is being collected. Please tell the researchers if you believe you are harmed from your participation in the study.

### BENEFITS

It is hoped that this study will build on the insights from previous iterations in 1998 and 2013 and add to the knowledge base on how play is currently used in pediatric occupational therapy practice. You are not expected to directly benefit from participation in the study.

### VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Participating in this study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part in the study or to stop participating at any time, for any reason, without penalty or negative consequences.

### PRIVACY & DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

No information that could be used to identify you will be recorded or linked with the research data collected as a part of this study.

#### *Future Use of Data*

Information about you collected for this study may be shared with other researchers, used for other research studies, or placed in a data repository. These studies may be similar to this study or completely different. All information that could identify you will be removed before sharing the data or using it for other research studies. We will not ask you for additional permission before sharing the information.

**ACCESS TO YOUR STUDY INFORMATION**

We will not give you access to the information that is collected about you in this study.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

You are encouraged to ask questions at any time during this study. For information about the study, contact Lisa Raymond-Tolan at (212) 998-5862, lmr8812@nyu.edu. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant or if you believe you have been harmed from the research, please contact the NYU Human Research Protection Program at (212) 998-4808 or ask.humansubjects@nyu.edu.

**AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE**

By checking below, you are agreeing to participate in this study. Make sure you understand what the study involves before you agree. If you have questions about the study after you agree to participate, you can contact the research team using the information provided above. You may [print/keep] a copy of this form.

*I agree to participate in this research study.*