

PLAY Project COVID-19 Precautions & Policies

Play and Learning Across a Year (PLAY) is an NIH-funded project (PIs Karen Adolph, Rick Gilmore, Catherine Tamis-LeMonda) that entails collaborative data collection of infant and mother activities in the home environment across 30 U.S. sites using a shared protocol, managed by a central IRB of record. Yet, the decision on when data collection can resume for PLAY will be at the discretion of each participating site's research policies and recommendations from their IRB. Nonetheless, we will implement common safety precautions across all PLAY sites.

During scheduling, parents will be provided written documentation (on our parent website and emailed PDFs) about risks involved in their participation and the protections taken by PLAY researchers before, during, and after home visits. Parents will be asked if they or anyone in their household exhibited symptoms related to COVID-19 in the last two weeks. Scheduling will be left up to individual researchers' discretion.

Before each visit, researchers will ensure that they are symptom-free and check and document their temperature. All equipment to be taken into the home will be sanitized with anti-viral wipes. Travel to homes will be done safely, while wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing. PPE and sanitizer will be provided for each site by the PLAY team at NYU.

At each home visit, researchers will abide by the following protections:

- Wear a cloth mask at all times
- Change into a new pair of disposable gloves at the door of the participants' home
- Put on plastic, disposable booties at the participant's door
- Maintain a 6-foot distance from mothers and children as much as possible, even if this results in a poor angle for filming
- Keep all equipment in a backpack, wear the backpack at all times, and only remove equipment as needed
- Do not touch or place equipment down onto surfaces in the home; except for a decibel meter and recording tablet, which will first be wiped down.
- Give consent and sharing permission forms to parents in a plastic sleeve along with a pre-sanitized pen
- Have only mothers open closets, cabinets, and doors during the house walk-through
- Hand toys for structured play to parents in a pre-sanitized baggie

To minimize the time spent in homes while retaining collection of critical data (1 hour of natural play, house walkthrough, parent report questionnaire interview) we have amended the home visit protocol as follows:

- Mothers can choose to complete the questionnaire interview over Zoom with a researcher rather than in the home
- Mothers will be told the research goals of the 5-minute structured play task, but can choose not to participate if they are concerned about handling outside objects
- Mothers will be told the research importance of not wearing a mask while home (to allow coding of facial expressions), but can choose to wear one if desired

Researchers will sanitize all equipment when returning to the lab. To aid in contact tracing, researchers will contact parents if they subsequently develop COVID-19 symptoms. Parents will be encouraged to contact the researcher if they develop symptoms.