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Evaluation of a theatre performance for adolescents promoting safer sex behaviour using AIDS risk reduction theories.

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Appendix 2b

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

Department of Psychology
School of Human and Community Development
Private Bag 3, Wits 2050, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear parent / guardian,

I, Michelle Scott, am an MA (Community Based Counselling Psychology) student at the University of Witwatersrand and I am doing research to see whether the lifeskills and HIV/AIDS educational play called "Big Time" run by the an organisation called arepp: Theatre for life at schools around the country helps learners know more about HIV and AIDS and whether it helps learners to make choices that help them to not get HIV and AIDS. The play is going to be performed at your child's school and if your child is interested in filling out the questionnaire, I would like to ask you whether you would allow your child to fill out a questionnaire that will help in seeing whether the play does help learners know more about HIV/AIDS and what your child's attitudes and opinions are about HIV/AIDS.

Your child does not have to fill out a questionnaire if your child does not want to. Your child will be able to see the play whether or not your child wants to fill out the questionnaire. The questionnaire asks for your child's opinions, knowledge and attitudes to HIV and AIDS as well as previous and current sexual behaviour and does not ask for your child's name. If your child wants to fill out the questionnaire, the answers to the questionnaire will not be shown to you, the teachers or anybody else but me and my university supervisor. This means that I will not know who your child is from the responses on the questionnaire and no teachers or other learners will see your child's answers to the questionnaire. The questionnaire is not for school and will not give your child school marks.

If your child wants to fill out the questionnaire, I will give him or her a form to sign saying that he or she wants to fill in the questionnaire. I will also ask you to fill in this consent form saying that you allow your child to fill in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire takes about 30 minutes to complete. Your child will not be forced to answer the questionnaire if he or she does not want to answer the questions and if there are any sensitive questions; your child can choose not to answer any questions that he or she is not comfortable with. Your child can choose to not answer the questionnaire even if your child has signed the form saying that he or she would like to participate. Even if you give your child permission to fill out the questionnaire, he or she can choose to not fill out the questionnaire if he or she wants to. There are no rewards or punishment for not filling in or filling in the questionnaire.

The questionnaires that I receive will be put into a report with no names and no school names for the university. I will make a summary page of the results of the research and come to your child's school to give your child copies of the main results on a one page summary. Your child will not be able to get individual feedback of the results because your child's name will not be on the questionnaire. If your child is worried and needs counselling after he or she has filled out the questionnaire, he or she will be given toll free help line numbers for counselling or be referred to a counselling centre. Learners will be able to contact me if they have concerns about the research.

If your child would like to be part of the study, they will be asked to please complete the form saying assent form and if you give your child permission to be part of the study, please can you to fill in the form saying consent form. You may keep the information sheet, but please can you send the signed consent form with your child to the school and I will collect it.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Scott (Researcher) Tel: 0823719839 Supervisor: Professor Charles Potter