Recruitment of participants in grade 5 for an exploratory study on children learning to program

My name is Caroline Berger and I am an undergraduate research assistant in the School of Computer Science at McGill University. Last semester, I developed a Programming Language Learning Tool (PLLT) that helps students learn to program in a professional development environment. I intend to conduct an exploratory study that examines children in grade 5 who are learning to program in a professional environment. A development environment is a software application, such as the Eclipse Integrated Development Environment that supports the creation of software. Professional programmers code in professional development environments.

The research team is comprised of:
- Caroline Berger (Principal Investigator), Undergraduate Research Assistant, School of Computer Science, McGill University, caroline.berger2@mail.mcgill.ca
- Martin Robillard (Supervisor/ Co-Investigator), Professor, School of Computer Science, McGill University, martin@cs.mcgill.ca
- Taciana Pontual da Rocha Falcao (Co-Investigator), Postdoctoral researcher, School of Information Studies, Faculty of Arts, McGill University, taciana.pontualdarochafalcao@mail.mcgill.ca

Participation in this study is voluntary and the amount of time required from you and your child is approximately one hour. If you and your child choose to participate, your child will be asked to respond verbally to questions about their learning and participate in an interactive learning session. An audio recording of your child's answers to a semi-structured interview and a screen capture video of your child's mouse movements and keystrokes during the learning session will be collected by the research team. Your child's name and any other personally identifiable information will not be publicly reported in any way.

The study will take place on McGill's Downtown campus (3480 University St, Montreal, QC). If you are unable to travel to this location, another venue can be arranged. The time and date of the session will be organized based on you and your child's availability.

Before participating in this study, you will be asked to complete a consent form. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's rights or welfare as a participant in this research study, please contact the Associate Director of Research Ethics at lynda.mcneil@mcgill.ca.

We invite you and your child to participate in this unique opportunity to acquire familiarity with computing technology in a closely mentored setting. **We are looking for participants who are currently in grade 5 and are fluent in English.** If you are interested in having your child participate in this study, please email Caroline Berger at caroline.berger2@mail.mcgill.ca or call (514) 247-9867.

Sincerely,

Caroline Berger

School of Computer Science
McGill University
caroline.berger2@mail.mcgill.ca
514-247-9867