Dear K-1 Educators,

Welcome to the R.E.S.C.U.E. Project! Our goal is to help Kindergarteners and First Graders with the fundamentals of word-level reading at home using a computer-based game called GraphoLearn from now through the summer. We will also provide teachers and families progress monitoring results using STAR Assessments from May of 2020 until January-February of 2021. There will be no cost to you or the families. You are not required to do anything during the summer months onwards if we can receive the necessary material from you before.

Here is your welcome packet! Please send us a quick email indicating that you are participating. Please also let us know if you are no longer interested. We ask for your timely response to all correspondence due to the time-sensitive nature of the project (and your students’ progress!).

The first step is to send out parent welcome packets. These were attached in your welcome email.

Please feel free to contact us any time. All material is also available online from our website http://haskinsglobal.org/graphogame/rescue.

The 2019-20 school year is likely to be an unforgettable time for students and educators alike. If you have any questions we can be reached via email (rescue@yale.edu) or cell-phone for urgent matters (650-245-7016). We are excited to partner with you!

Sincerely,

The R.E.S.C.U.E. Team
## Project Overview

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**teachers are not responsible for continuing the project during Summer**
Sample Email to Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I’d like to introduce you to an exciting new opportunity! Our school is partnering with researchers at Yale and University of Connecticut for the R.E.S.C.U.E. project. This research project is aimed to help your child learn to read while being out of the classroom.

COVID-19 has led to some unprecedented times and with the closure of schools, we are happy to have the support of this research-based program. I appreciate your future support in engaging your child in the program.

Please see the welcome packet attached for details. In brief, our class have been invited to participate in reading instruction through a digital-based game. Your child would play for 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week for 12 weeks—all in the comfort of your own home! Your child will also complete a 15-minute online assessment with a R.E.S.C.U.E. team member at a few different time points. If you would like more information, the researchers are offering virtual information sessions. Please visit the R.E.S.C.U.E. website for details: http://haskinsglobal.org/graphogame/rescue/.

If you would like your child to participate in the project, all you need to do now is:

☐ Complete the parent/guardian permission letter in your email by [date]

I do hope you consider having your child participate! I know you have a lot to balance right now between your own work, keeping the well-being of your household and supporting your child’s schoolwork.

Thank you for all that you are doing to help us get through these times!

Sincerely,

[Signature Here]

☐ Attach parent welcome packet
Sample Email to Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to R.E.S.C.U.E.! I am excited to have your child join us in participating in this project!

With the start of the project quickly approaching, these are a few next steps to be completed if you have not already done so:

☐ Attend an info session if desired (visit the website for more details)
☐ Check technology requirements and Install GraphoLearn
☐ Complete the one-time family survey

As a reminder, the reading pre-assessment will take place on [date and time].

Click this link to join: https://yale.zoom.us/j/5687427617?pwd=TzNCNFNxRGRuRklwM3pBc1FKMEZmQT09

If you cannot attend the pre-assessment, please notify rescue@yale.edu immediately to re-schedule.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Looking forward to getting started!

Sincerely,

[Signature Here]

☐ Include pre-assessment date and time and zoom information
You are invited to sit-in on the online pre-assessment.

Click on this link to join:
https://yale.zoom.us/j/5687427617?pwd=TzNCNFNxRGRuRklwM3pBc1FKMEZmQT09

Send R.E.S.C.U.E. Team Admin Contact

With parent/guardian permission, we are requesting some student information from your school.

Sample Email to School Administrators

Dear [contact name],

As you may be aware, my classroom is participating in the R.E.S.C.U.E. project led by researchers at Yale and UConn. This project will help my students learn to read while outside of the classroom.

In order to help support our students and inform researchers, we will need to release some student information. The R.E.S.C.U.E. team, cc’d here, will be in communication with you about what is needed. All students participating in the project have parent/guardian permission to release this information.

Thank you,

[Signature]

☐ CC’ our email: rescue@yale.edu
One-Time Teacher Survey

Click this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkkTUk92nMeKTvoSvHxeaNzM-3J6orsR-kMMf_cXAwUtawga/viewform?usp=sf_link

Reminder Emails to Parents (as needed)

Some families may need some words of encouragement from time to time. You can use this sample email to encourage families. We will notify you if we think some families need encouragement.

Sample Email Encouragement to Parents

Dear [Parent Name],

I hope you are doing well! I am checking in because I noticed that [area of concern].

I understand that you are juggling a lot right now and I’d like to serve as a support person for you. Please keep me informed as to how I can best help you.

[For encouraging GraphoLearn play:

I know that sometimes it is a challenge to engage your child in an activity that he/she doesn’t want to do. Remember these tips:

☐ Try breaking up the activity into small time increments (5-10 minutes)
☐ Use positive reinforcement (e.g. offer ‘high reward’ after GraphoLearn)
☐ If these things don’t work, reach out to me ]

[For encouraging weekly progress check-in:

We want to be the most informed we possibly could about [child’s name] reading. One way to do this is to hear from you about how [he/she] is doing. Try your very best to submit the check-in each week. ]

I know you are balancing a lot, and I really appreciate your support in this project!

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

[Your Name]