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**ASSENT OR ASSENT SCRIPT TEMPLATE**

***Tips:***

***Assent:*** *If children of seven years and older will be included in the study, an assent agreement (requiring signature, if possible) is necessary. Age appropriate language should be used (the younger the child, the less information given). A typical teenager could receive an assent (or an informed cover letter) using the same language as an adult.* ***The use of images and larger font size is appropriate for younger children.***

*If possible, keep the Informed Assent Agreement to one page or less.*

***Verbal Assent Script:*** *If the child is not able to read (usually 6 and under), present age-appropriate research information verbally to obtain verbal assent (the younger the child, the less information given). If the child is very young, you should just ask questions such as, “Are you ready to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, like your mommy/daddy/teacher/ told you we would be doing today?” Once verbal assent is obtained, it is important to regain verbal assent periodically throughout the activity, to account for the shorter timeframe during which children can remain focused on the activity. This can be done by simply asking, “Would you like to continue or would you like to stop?”*

*If using verbal assent, failure to object should not be construed as assent. Be sure to receive a positive response, a ‘yes’ or an affirmative nod of the head. If the child does not want to participate or resists, you must accept that as disapproval to consent. The parent/guardian/teacher may not coerce the child into participating.”*

*All instructions on the Assent Agreement template are in* ***italics****. Please do not include the instructions in the final document.*

**University of Central Arkansas**

**Informed Assent Agreement Template**

**(Insert Research Study Title Here)**

Some researchers *(or students, investigators, or people)* at UCA are doing a project about . This is called a **research study**.

The **purpose** of this research study is *(simple explanation of the goal of the research/what you are trying to find out)*.

You are asked to be in this **research study** because *(simple explanation of why the child is invited to participate/has been chosen as a participant)*.

The **researchers** in charge of this study are *(name investigators)*.

This study will take place at *(state where research will take place)* and will last *(state how long child’s participation will take)*.

During this study, this is **what will happen**: *(simple explanation of procedures. A list often works well*).

*Depending on the length of time for data collection, you might need to mention that the child should tell you if he/she needs to use the restroom, or just needs a break.*

*Mention any* ***risks****,* ***discomforts****, and* ***potential benefits*** *of the study, appropriate for the age level.*

*If confidential questionnaires are involved, add a section such as:*

Only the investigator(s) doing this study will know your answers. Your parents (and perhaps teachers, if the study is conducted at the child’s school) will not know.

*If it seems appropriate, use one of the following:*

You will not be given anything for being in this research study. **OR** You will be given for being in this research study. (*All incentives must be age appropriate and approved by the IRB*.)

**Your (mom/dad/parents/guardians) have said it is okay for you to be in this research study. You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. If you want to stop, you can tell us by saying, “I would like to stop”.**

Please mark one of the choices below:

 **NO,** I do not want to be in this study. **YES,** I want to be in this study.

Name or Signature of Subjects (*as appropriate*) Date

(***not*** *used with anonymous surveys*)

Signature of Person Obtaining Assent (optional) Date

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS ASSENT FORM FOR YOURSELF.**