**CHILD ASSENT TEMPLATE**

If children are capable of providing assent, then they should be asked to participate in the research study. If they are capable, but the researcher does not wish to obtain assent then the waiver needs to meet the criteria for waiving consent for adult subjects. It is important that an age appropriate assent is used. As a general guideline, see below:

1. Ages 5-7: verbal assent script
2. Ages 8-12: age and language appropriate written assent form which they may or may not sign
3. Ages 13-18: may sign the parental permission form

Example of a verbal assent script for below minimal risk activities (young children):

Hi, I am ***XXXX*** from Michigan State University. I am trying to learn something about how children ***XXXX***. I would like you to help me with this research. You do not have to do it, if you do not want to. Nobody will be upset with you if you decide you would rather do something else. Does this sound like it would be something you would like to do? Thank you.

Assent Template for Ages 8 to 12: If you have or know a child in this age range, write the assent form as if you were speaking to her/him. This assent form does not need to have all elements of consent, but it has to give the child a really good understanding of why the research is being done, if there is any benefit to him/her, possible risks (if any), and that the child does not have to participate. This is only meant as a guide. If you are conducting above minimal risk biomedical research that has potential benefit to the child, you may want to consider a different type of assent process that include a conversation with both the parent and the child.

**STUDY TITLE**

**Person leading the study:**

**Why are we doing this research?**

The reason we are doing this research is to XXXX.

**Why are you being asked to participate in this research study**?

Simple explanation

**What will happen during the study?**

Explain the exact procedures, so the child will not be surprised.

If you are going to audio tape or video tape the child, tell them this. If they have a choice of whether or not to be audio or video taped, ask for permission to do so.

**Risks and Benefits?**

If there are any good things about being in the study, describe them. Also describe the potential problems that might occur if there are any.

**Who will be told the things we learn about you in this study?**

### Describe who will have access to the information collected. Be clear about whether pregnancy, illegal activity, psychological tendencies will be reported and to whom. Be clear about what parents and teachers will be told.

### Your name will not be in any report of the results of this study.

**Will there be any money or gifts for participating?**

This can be left out of the consent if there is no compensation to subjects.

**What if you or your parents do not want you to be in this study?**

You can only participate if both you and your parents agree for you to be in the study. Nobody will be upset if you do not want to be in the study. It is your decision. If you decide to be in the study, and later change your mind that is okay too. You can stop being in the study anytime you like.

What if you have any questions about the study?

If you have any questions about the study, you can either tell your parents and have them talk to me, or talk to me yourself. Here is my phone number and address: ***XXXX.***

**Documentation of Assent**

You will need to decide whether you want the child to sign the assent form. If you do, proceed the signature line with: If you sign your name on this page, it means that you agree to take part in this research study. You may change your mind at any time.

If you do not want to obtain a signature, prepare the assent form like an information sheet that the child can take home, and ask them: Would you like to participate in the study?

**ASSENT FOR CHILDREN OVER TWELVE**

Children over twelve can sign the parental permission form. Please see the template for the parental permission form for an example of how to create this assent.