

FORMATTING FOR ASSENT FORM

- ✓ Use words and sentence patterns that are appropriate to the age group when customizing this form for the protocol.
- ✓ Write the document in the 2nd person (i.e., you, your) and keep the pronoun usage consistent throughout the document.
- ✓ Use at least 12 pt. font.
- ✓ Ensure that margins are at least 1” on all sides.
- ✓ Include a revision date and “Page X of Y” on all pages, and space for participant initials on all but the signature page.

ASSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY

[SAMPLE]

My name is _____. I am a student in the Department of _____ at Union University. You are being asked to volunteer for a research study.

These are some things we want you to know about research studies:

I am asking you to be in a research study. Research is a way to test new ideas. Research helps us learn new things. In my research study, I am trying to learn more about . . . (outline what the study is about in language that is both appropriate to the child's maturity and age).

This is what you will be asked to do:

If you agree to be in this study you will . . . (Describe the procedures and the duration of participation. Describe what will take place from the child's point of view in a language that is both appropriate to the child's maturity and age). Whether or not you want to be in this research study is your choice. You can say Yes or No. Whatever you decide is OK.

Risks (bad things that might happen):

(Describe any risks to the child that may result from participation in the research.)

Benefits (good things that might happen):

Being in this study will help us to understand . . . (Describe any benefits to the child or society from participation in the research).

What if I don't want to be in this study?

If you do not want to be in this study, you do not have to be in it. Remember, being in this study is up to you and no one will be upset if you don't want to participate. Even if you say yes now, if you change your mind later and want to stop that will be fine. Please talk this over with your parents to give their permission for you to take part in this study. But even if your parents say "yes" you can still decide not to be in the study.

Will anybody else know what I say or write down?

All of your records about this research study will be kept locked up so no one else can see them. (Explain how the records will be kept confidential.) All of your records will be destroyed after the study is over. If you decide to stop being in the study, your records will be destroyed immediately.

Who should I ask if I have any questions?

You can ask any questions that you have about the study. If you have a question later that you didn't think of now, you can call me (insert your name and telephone number) or ask me next time.

Agreement to be in the research study:

Now that I have asked my questions and think I know about the study and what it means, here is what I decided:

_____ OK, I will be in the study. _____ No, I do not want to be in the study

Signing my name at the bottom means that I agree to be in this study. My parents and I will be given a copy of this form after I have signed it.

_____ Age _____
Your Name (please print)

_____ Date _____
Your Signature

_____ Date _____
Signature of Researcher