**Child Assent Template**

Unless a study has the potential to directly benefit participants, child assent is required.

Information in the assent document must be organized to facilitate comprehension. **Assent documents should be written in plain language at a reading level applicable to the participants’ age/grade.**

We recommend the use of this template to create the child assent document(s) for your study.

Please note the following:

1. Text in [brackets] represents information about your study that you must add.
2. Before you submit your assent document to the IRB, delete this cover page and brackets. The finished document should reflect what you will give to the subject.
3. Please follow the **instructions in blue** below and provide the applicable information noted in **red**. You will need to remove the instructions once you’ve completed your assent form, including these instructions. The font color of your completed document should be **black**.
4. Use a file name for each assent document that clearly identifies the subjects to whom it is intended (e.g. child assent, child assent (control), child assent (experimental), etc.).

For questions about child assent, please contact the IRB at irb@liberty.edu.

For more information on plain language, go to <http://www.plainlanguage.gov/>.

**Child Assent to Participate in a Research Study**

[Please provide the requested information below in simple, non-technical language at the assumed reading level of your participants.]

***What is the name of the study and who is doing the study?***

The name of the study is [study name], and the person doing the study is [principal investigator’s name].

***Why is [principal investigator name] doing this study?***

[Principal investigator name] wants to know [simplified study purpose].

***Why am I being asked to be in this study?***

You are being asked to be in this study because you are [participant criteria].

***If I decide to be in the study, what will happen and how long will it take?***

If you decide to be in this study, you will [procedures and time estimates.]

***Do I have to be in this study?***

No, you do not have to be in this study. If you want to be in this study, then tell the researcher. If you don’t want to, it’s OK to say no. The researcher will not be angry. You can say yes now and change your mind later. It’s up to you. [Please retain the above paragraph as stated.]

***What if I have a question?***

You can ask questions any time. You can ask now. You can ask later. You can talk to the researcher. If you do not understand something, please ask the researcher to explain it to you again. [Please retain the above paragraph as stated.]

Signing your name below means that you want to be in the study.

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Signature of Child/Witness Date

[If your participants are not capable of reading the prepared assent form, it may be read to them in the presence of a witness other than the principal investigator. If this is the case with your study, please remove “Signature of Child” and replace it with “Witness.”]

[Researcher’s Name]

[Researcher’s Email/Phone]

[Faculty Sponsor’s Name]

[Faculty Sponsor’s Email]

Liberty University Institutional Review Board

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