This assent template provides an outline to follow when creating a written assent form for adolescents and children that are age eight or older. Key information will vary from study to study, so the template language should be modified accordingly. This form should be written at a reading level that is appropriate to the targeted population.

The following elements must be included in the assent form:

* Purpose statement of the research
* Description of research procedures that the child will engage in
* Description of potential risks related to the research
* Description of benefits related to the research
* Statement that the child is free to withdraw at any time
* An offer to answer all questions

(Click [here](https://research.illinoisstate.edu/forms/) to view other template and sample forms)

**\*\*\*To be eligible for review the template cannot include this first informational page and all shaded text must be either replaced or deleted before submitting\*\*\***

Our names are [names] and we work at Illinois State University. We are doing a research study. A research study is a special way to learn about something. We are doing this research study because we are trying to find out more about [insert simple description of the purpose of the study]. We would like to ask you to be in this research study.

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

You are being asked because [insert simple language explaining why the child/adolescent/cognitively impaired individual is being asked to participate].

**What will happen during this research study?**

We want to tell you about some things that might happen if you are in the study. This study will take place at [insert name of study site(s)]. We think it will last for [indicate expected duration of participation].

If you want to be in this study, here are the things that we will ask you to do. [Describe the study procedures in simple language. Lists are often very helpful.] [If the research participants are students of a member of the research team select one of the following statements: While your teacher may know if you agree to participate in the research before grades are posted, your grade will not be affected if you choose not to participate. OR Your teacher will not know if you agree to participate until after final grades are posted.]

Sometimes bad things can happen to people who are in research studies. These bad things are called “risks.” Select one of the following statements: We don’t think there are more risks than what would happen in a normal day. OR The risks of being in this study might be [simple description of possible risks of participation].

Sometimes good things happen to people who are in research studies. These good things are called “benefits.” The benefits of being in this study might be [insert simple description of possible benefits to participation].

[OR]

We don’t know for sure if you will have any benefits. [If applicable: We hope to learn something that will help other people some day.]

**Will the researchers protect your information?**

After we finish this research, we plan to share what we learn with others. When we do this, Select one of the following: Your information will be anonymous. This means that nobody, including the research team, will know who you are. OR Your information will be confidential. This means that the research team will know who you are, but they will keep that a secret.

**Will you get money or payment for being in this research study?**

\*\*\*Delete this section if no compensation will be offered\*\*\*

You will get [money, gift certificate, etc.]for being in this research study. You will get [insert terms of compensation in simple language].

**Who can you ask if you have any questions?**

If you have any questions about this study, you can ask the researcher by [provide contact information. (Contact information must also include the Principal Investigator unless there is a valid reason not to)]. Also, if you have any questions that you didn’t think of now, you can ask later.

**What if you don’t want to be in the study?**

If you don’t want to be in this study, you don’t have to be. It’s up to you. If you say you want to be in it and then change your mind, that’s okay. All you have to do is tell us that you don’t want to be in it anymore. No one will be mad at you or upset with you if you don’t want to be in it.

**Your choice:**

Write your name and check the box if you agree to be in the study.

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I Agree Printed name