Template: Minor Assent Document

**Instructions:** Please modify the following information as necessary.   
[Blue text in brackets] is for you to fill in.

This assent form should be written in simple language that is understandable to the children you will recruit. You may submit different versions for different age groups. The example language in this template is written for about a 5th-grade reading level. Alternative language for older and younger children can be found on [our website](https://dhr.research.northeastern.edu/forms-guidance/templates/).

**Northeastern University, [Department]**

**Name of Researcher(s):** [Principal Investigator’s name, Student Researcher’s name]

**Title of Project:** [Title]

**Version date:** [date]

Agreement to be in a Research Study

We are inviting you to be in a research study. You don’t have to be in the study if you don’t want to. The researcher will explain the study to you. You can ask the researcher any questions. Then, you can decide whether or not you want to be in the study.

## What is this study about?

We want to find out more about [topic].

## What will happen if you say yes?

If you decide to be in this study, we will ask you to [describe procedures in simple language]. This will take about [# minutes/hours/etc.].

Describe all the tasks that the person will be asked to do or take part in, what will be done to them, and any other involvement. Provide enough detail so that the reader can understand what will happen. Use bullet points or timetables for research that has multiple visits or tasks.

## Could anything bad happen? Will anything be uncomfortable?

**This section should be consistent with the Risks section of your Protocol Application.** Identify any reasonably-foreseeable risks, harms, discomforts or inconvenience that the participant may experience. Describe the precautions you will take to minimize the risks, discomforts or inconvenience.

**Ex:** Talking about [topic] might make you feel upset. If you don’t want to answer a question, you can say so and we will skip the question.

## Will the study help you?

Describe any direct benefits to the participant from participating in the study. Make it clear that the benefits aren’t guaranteed. If there is no direct benefit, state that and describe any potential benefits to others. **Payment for participation is not considered a benefit.**

**Ex**: Being in the study won’t help you. We might learn something about [topic] that could help other people later.

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

**If there are no relevant alternatives, delete this section.** This is the case for most research without direct benefits to participants.

If the research activities are connected to non-research activities (e.g., an educational program), explain how the person can still take part in the non-research activities. **Ex:** You can still do the activity even if you don’t want to be in the study. If you don’t want to be in the study, we won’t use your worksheet.

## Will you get paid to be in the study?

If participants will be paid or given a gift, state what the payment is and when it will be given. **If not, you may delete this section.**

**Ex**: We will give you a $5 gift certificate to [vendor] after you finish the study.

## What if you have questions about the study?

You can ask any questions now or later. Just let us know.

For older minors, especially in studies where they might have questions that they want to keep private from their guardians, consider including contact information for the research team and the DHR:

If you have any questions about this study, please contact [researcher name and contact information].

If you have any questions about your rights in this research, you can contact the Northeastern University Department of Human Research at Tel: (773) 396-2327, or Email: [IRBReview@northeastern.edu](mailto:IRBReview@northeastern.edu) .

**If you are *not* documenting assent with a signature, remove or revise the following section accordingly.**

# If you agree to be in this research study, sign your name here:

Signature of person agreeing to be in the study Date

Printed name of person above

Signature of person who explained the study to the Date

participant

Printed name of person above