**Informed Assent Form Template for Research with Children or Minors**

1. Please note that this template is intended to assist the Researcher in the design of the Informed Assent Form for children or minors.
2. The language used should be at a level appropriate to the child’s age and development.
3. The Informed Assent Form does not replace a consent form signed by the parents / guardians. The assent is in addition to the consent and signals the child’s willingness to cooperate in the study.
4. The Informed Assent Form consists of two parts: the information sheet and the assent declaration.
5. The template contains explanations in [ ] which are meant to guide the researcher, and are not to be included in the assent form.

**Informed Assent Form for [Children / Minors]**

[In the place of children / minors name the group of individuals who you are inviting to participate in the research, and for whom this assent is written.]

**Name of the Researcher:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Research:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**This Informed Assent Form has two parts:**

* Information sheet (this gives you information about the study)
* Declaration of Assent (this is where you write your name if you agree to participate)

**Part I: Information Sheet**

**Introduction**

[This is a brief introduction to ensure that the child knows who you are, and that you are doing a research study. Tell the children your name and what you do (for example, that you are a student at …..). Briefly and simply explain to the child what you would like to do with them. It will be appropriate to inform the child that you have spoken to the parents/guardians, and that parental/ guardian consent is necessary for them to participate in the research. Assure the children that if they do not understand some words or concepts, you will take time to explain them.]

**Purpose: why are you doing the Research?**

[Explain the purpose of the research in clear, simple terms that children will understand.]

**Choice of Participant: Why are you asking me?**

[Like adults, children like to know why they are being invited to participate in this research. It is important to address any fears or concerns that the children might have about why they have been chosen.]

**Participation is voluntary – Do I have to do this?**

[State clearly, in a language that the children can easily understand, that they can choose to participate or not. State also that the parents / guardians have been asked for their consent for the child to participate or not.]

**Right to refuse or withdraw – Can I choose not to be in the research? Can I change my mind?**

[State clearly that they do not have to take part in the research if they do not wish to do so. Explain to the child that they may opt to stop participating in the research at any time, without giving reason and without any consequence.]

**Procedure: What is going to happen to me?**

[Provide a brief and simple explanation of the methodology that you are using in the research study for example, observation in class, a questionnaire). Focus on what is expected of the child. If the researcher intends to use photographs, audio- / video-recordings, the child should also be informed at this stage.]

**Duration**

[State how much time this is going to take.]

**Risks and Benefits**

[Explain and describe any risks to the child in clear, simple language. Also briefly explain and describe how the child, the community to which they belong, or society as a whole may benefit from the research project.]

**Confidentiality: Is everybody going to know about this?**

[Explain the meaning of confidentiality in simple terms. Explain who will see the information about the child or the information that the child shares. Briefly explain that precautions will be taken to ensure their safety and anonymity.]

**Sharing the Results: will you tell me the results?**

[Briefly explain using child friendly language, that the research findings may be shared, for example, in a book, but that confidential information will remain private at all times.]

**Who to Contact: Who can I talk to or ask more questions?**

[Provide your contact information, and the name and contact information of your academic supervisor (where applicable), or any other person that the child can easily contact should they wish to ask more questions.]

**Part II: Declaration of Assent (for older children)**

|  |
| --- |
| * I have been invited to participate in a research study by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * I have read and understood the above information, or it has been read to me, and I agree to participate in this study
 | ☺ | ☹ |
| * I have had my questions answered, and I know that I can ask questions later if I have any
 | ☺ | ☹ |
| * I understand that I do not have to take part in the research if they do not wish to do so
 | ☺ | ☹ |
| * I know that I can stop participating in the research at any time, without giving any reasons and without any consequences
 | ☺ | ☹ |
| * I understand that all information about me, or what I say, will remain private
 | ☺ | ☹ |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child Date

**Part II: Declaration of Assent (for younger children)**

* Ms / Mr [first name] has explained what she/he is studying.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Colour the Happy face if you feel good about helping Ms / Mr [first name]

 | * Colour the Sad face if you do not feel good about helping Ms / Mr [first name]

 |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child Date