**Guidelines for Creating a Child Assent Form**

**Instructions to PI:** Starting at 6 years of age children must assent to participate. These guidelines apply to children from 6 through 12 years of age. However, depending on the exact age, cognitive abilities, and educational level, as well as the nature of the project, the assent form and process may vary. The sample template below can serve as guidance for the key elements needed to develop an assent form. Please complete the prompts in red. **Delete these instructions and the prompts from the form before you submit it for review.**

It is up to the investigator to decide whether children will sign the form. This should be covered in the protocol. If children do not sign the form the investigator should keep a record of the date of the child’s assent or dissent. If the child does not assent then treat their response as a dissent. Assent must be stated as an affirmative.

**Assent Form to Participate in a Study**

We are doing a research study to learn about *xxx*. A research study is a way to learn more about something. We are asking you to help because we *xxx.*

If you agree to be in our study, you will be asked to *xxx.* *Describe the procedures using language a child can understand. Include the amount of time and number of visits.*

You do not have to answer our questions *(use the descriptor that is most appropriate, for example play with our toys, let us see your school grades*). It is up to you. You can say okay now. You can also say no. If you say okay now you can change your mind later. If you want to stop, then all you have to do is tell us you want to stop. No one will be mad at you if you don’t want to answer our questions or if you change your mind later and want to stop.

Before you say yes or no, we will answer any questions you have. You can ask questions at any time. Just tell *xxx* that you have a question.

If you sign this paper, it means that you want to be in the study. If you don’t want to be in the study, don’t sign this paper. Being in the study is up to you, and no one will be upset if you don’t sign this paper or if you change your mind later.

Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your printed name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person obtaining consent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of person obtaining consent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_