

SAMPLE ASSENT SCRIPT

For studies involving children, an assent script is required. Children with permission to participate in a research study also have the right to be informed about the study and choose whether they wish to participate. Create a script that describes the study, what they'll be asked to do, confidentiality issues, etc. Use age-appropriate language! Children do not sign any documents.

Below is a very basic sample script, one that could be used with most young children. For middle school children, you may include more information and increase the reading level slightly. We suggest you test your assent script on children you may know to see if they understand what you are asking. For high school students under 18, it is acceptable to use the parent/guardian consent form you created and modify it to reflect that it is an assent script directed at them and not their parent.

Hi, my name is _____, and I'm from the University of Maine. I am here today because I am doing a project to learn about _____.

I would like to ask you to _____ (*explain in very simple language the activities the child will be asked to do*). If you say "yes," you can still stop at any time by just telling me you want to stop. No one will be upset if you don't want to do this, or if you want to stop after you have started. If I ask you a question and you don't want to answer it, that's ok. Your parents have said it is ok for you to be in the project if you want to.

Your answers will be private and only used for my project.

Would you like to be in my project?

NOTE: Depending on the type of study, additional information may be required, e.g., "some questions could make you sad" (risk statement).