Child Assent to Participate in Research

Research Project Title:
Principal Investigator:
Graduate Student, if applicable:
Co-investigator from an external institution, if applicable:

**Introduction**
Inform potential participants that they are being invited to be in a research study and provide a general statement about the study.

Inform potential participants why they were selected or identified, include any inclusion criteria, to be in the study.

Encourage potential participants to ask any questions that they may have before agreeing to be in the study.

**Purpose of Study**
Explain research question and purpose in plain language, and how the data collected will be used.

**Description of the Study Procedures**
Explain procedures and tasks; identify any procedures that are experimental; describe length of time for participation, frequency and duration of procedures; etc.

If applicable, explain any alternative procedures or courses of treatment available to the potential participants.

**Risks/Discomforts of Being in Study**
Explain risks and likelihood of each risk. If there are no foreseeable risks, state as such.

Explain how researchers will mitigate risks.

**Benefits of Being in the Study**
Describe any benefits of participation.

If there are no expected benefits, state as such.

**Confidentiality of Data and Limits to Confidentiality**
Examples of language: “We will not be collecting or retaining any information about your identity.”
OR
“The records of this study will be kept strictly confidential. Research records will be kept in a coded format and secured using a password protected file. We will not include any information...”
in any report we may publish that would make it possible to identify you.” If audio or video tape recordings are made, explain specifically who will have access to them, and when they will be erased/destroyed.

Explain any limits to confidentiality based on mandated reporting. For example, “Under state law, the researcher(s) will not maintain as confidential, information about known or reasonably suspected incidents of abuse or neglect of a child. If any researcher has or is given such information, he or she may be required to report it to the authorities. [provide description and examples of types of information which would be reported …] Likewise, if you express that you will hurt yourself or others, we will need to report it to proper authorities.”

**Use of Research Data**
Explain if de-identified, but confidential, data will be used for secondary, future studies and how it will be disclosed in outcome reports.

**Payment**
Explain amount of payment or other reimbursement information (e.g., class credits, gas money, etc.), as well as when payment and/or reimbursement will occur and in what cases payment will not occur, if any.

**Right to Refuse or Withdraw**
It must be stated that participation is voluntary. Youth should be informed that if they refuse to take part in the study at any time that it will be without prejudice or penalties to them and will not result in any loss of benefits to which they are otherwise entitled.

If prospective participants are in a subordinate relationship with people at study location (e.g., teachers), then it should be stated that their refusal to participate will have no affect on their relationship, classroom or program participation, or other outside activities.

**Right to Ask Questions and Report Concerns**
Potential participants are to be informed that they have the right to ask questions about this research study and to have those questions answered by researchers before, during or after the research study.

If study is being conducted outside the United States, include a local contact advocate for questions about research study and participants’ rights, if possible.

**Assent**
Participants must be provided a copy of the assent form if they want one along with any other printed materials relevant to the study.

Name of Participant (print) and Signature: _______________________________ Date: _____________