

Younger child assent spoken script

A spoken model for younger children or children who need a read-aloud explanation; choose by comprehension, not age alone.

Original teaching templates, not official Sacramento State forms or approved protocols. Replace every bracketed prompt, remove drafting notes, use current university forms where required, and obtain the applicable institutional determination before recruitment or research. These are not ready-to-sign documents.

Researcher notes not part of the spoken script

This short script may suit early-elementary children, but no age automatically establishes ability or a waiver. Ask the IRB to approve the appropriate process. Read slowly, explain unfamiliar words, invite questions, and respond to verbal and nonverbal refusal. Parent permission does not replace the child's choice. Remove irrelevant optional lines.

What we are asking

My name is [name]. I am trying to learn [simple purpose]. I would like to ask you to [concrete activity]. It takes about [time the child can understand]. Your parent says I may ask you, but you get to choose too.

[If needed: explain the ordinary class activity and the separate research activity in two short sentences.] If you do not want to do this, you can [normal alternative]. You will not lose [grades, lessons, help, or other relevant benefit].

You can say no or stop

You can skip a question, take a break, or stop. [Describe any likely discomfort in one simple sentence.] Tell me if something bothers you. [Explain how you will help and any safety/reporting limits in words the child understands.]

[State whether the activity is expected to help the child, without promising improvement.] [Explain who will hear or see answers.] We will [plain-language privacy safeguard]. [If there are group participants, explain that other children will hear and might repeat what is said.]

Ask separately about optional activities

[If applicable] You can also choose a talk with me about [topic]. It takes [time]. You can say no to the talk and still [core activity]. Would you like to talk?

[If applicable] May I record your voice so I can remember what you say? If you say no, [approved alternative]. [Explain who hears the recording and when it is deleted simply.]

Check understanding and ask for the child's choice

What will we do if you choose to join? What can you do if you want to stop? What questions do you have? [Explain again if needed; do not coach the child to say yes.] Would you like to do [core research activity]?

You can ask me or [trusted adult/contact] a question later. If you want us to remove your answers later, tell [adult/contact]; [brief actual limit if answers cannot be located later].

Researcher record, stored separately: [study code or permitted identifier; date; explanation given; child's affirmative choice or refusal; separate optional choices; person obtaining assent]. Use only the approved documentation process. Silence or compliance is not an affirmative choice.

Official guidance to check before use

[Sacramento State Human Subjects Research](#)

Official starting point for submission guidance and current institutional templates.

[Sacramento State Research Protocol Guidance - sign-in required](#)

Current consent forms and protocol guidance. Authenticated contents were not verified in this review.

[45 CFR 46.408 - Parent permission and child assent](#)

IRB decisions about capability, assent, parental permission, and documentation.