**Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing**

**Institutional Review Board**

**(BRCN IRB)**

**Recommended and Preferred Template for Obtaining Assent**

**Children 9 to 13 Years of Age**

Participants who are minors (under the age of 18 and not legally emancipated) cannot give their *informed consent* to participate in a study. However, they may *assent* to participate in research. Assent is defined as “a child’s affirmative agreement to participate in research.” For this age group, the parental consent form includes a statement about obtaining assent and that their child will no longer be a participant when he/she states not wanting to participate in one or any of the research activities.

Before obtaining assent with this age group, a verbal explanation about the study’s research activities is given, using age-appropriate language. Assent is obtained by signing a form that is simple and states what will happen, using non-technical, jargon-free language and appropriate to participants’ reading/comprehension level.

The BRCN IRB recommends and prefers that the researcher use the template on the following page for obtaining assent from this age group. Depending on the characteristics of the study’s children and the nature if the study, the template can be modified.

Template

I am studying for my master’s degree in education. I’m writing a paper about teaching math as a project for my school.

As part of our regular math class, some of the class will play math games, and some of the class will do math exercises on paper. I want to compare the test scores of the two groups, before and after the games and exercises. So I would use your test scores all together to find out which method works better.

Your participation is voluntary. You don’t have to participate. Your math grade will not be affected either way.

And, if you’re in the paper group, you’ll get a chance to learn and play the math games later, after the tests.

If you don’t want to participate, just do not sign this form.

Thank you,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (researcher’s name)

Student’s name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from California State University East Bay