**Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing**

**Institutional Review Board**

**(BRCN IRB)**

**Recommended and Preferred Template for Obtaining Assent**

**Children 8 Years of Age and Under**

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 should also include the following statement in the “Risks” section: “If your child indicates through his/her behavior, or any other means, that they do not want to participate in one or any of the research activities, their participation will be stopped immediately.”

Before obtaining assent with this age group, a simple verbal explanation about the study’s research activities is given, using simple and age-appropriate language.

The BRCN IRB recommends and prefers that the researcher use the following template 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

Hi, I’m \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I’m going to school too. I’d like you to be part of my school project, which will be writing a paper on children in school. This is what will happen if you say yes.

* We will count beans and put them in special boxes. I want to see if using the boxes helps you learn to count. Or
* I will read a story to the class and then I will ask questions about it. Or
* You will tell me a story and I will take notes. Or
* I will sit in the back of your classroom and watch your math lesson and take some notes for my school paper.

Children who say “yes” become participates unless their parents did not give consent.

Children who say “no” are not participants although their parents might have given consent.

Adapted from California State University East Bay