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| **Doing research with children**  This document is to assist researchers who propose to use child participants in their research. |

* As per the Human Ethics Guidelines for research with children under the age of 16 there should be an information sheet and consent form for their parent/guardian and there should be no payments, gifts or inducements to children under 16 years without prior approval by their parent/guardian.
* Wherever possible, children should be provided with their own information sheet using suitable language.
* An appropriate mechanism of gaining consent or assent from the children must be detailed in your ethics application. If the children are mature enough to provide consent this can be done in conjunction with permission from a parent/guardian. For younger children, agreement to participate could be gained by signing an age appropriate assent form or for younger children the project may be explained to them and they complete a form as below.
* As per the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 you may be required to undertake a safety check if you will be having regular unsupervised contact with children.
* If there will be multiple meetings with a child, another responsible adult should be present at each meeting if possible.
* Where there will be group observation/discussion with children, details of how children who do not have/give consent to participate will be managed during the research project should be included in the ethics application.
* If images of children are being recorded (either still or video) this needs to be explicitly described in the information sheet along with detailed information on how these will be stored, accessed and published.



***[Note this example form wouldn’t be appropriate for older children who would be able to read]***

**Consent form for the child/children**

I am happy for *[add name]* to *[description of activity]* and record some of it.

Child’s name:

(Circle/colour appropriate face)

[](https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=happy+face&view=detailv2&&id=796E9897B616716C49A1706BDCB37F7E21BAB78E&selectedIndex=15&ccid=H3p1Ky4t&simid=608016646790186796&thid=OIP.M1f7a752b2e2daed9c3a12bbf6512f336H0) [](https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=unhappy+face&view=detailv2&&id=8DE2E095F53C9FCAA78288BE91F86ECAE6169D43&selectedIndex=14&ccid=yq+eEW1Q&simid=608055447530769588&thid=OIP.Mcaaf9e116d50d947515c589c202dee5eH0)