

We study children with developmental disabilities. The parent signs a consent form for the child, but we also use an assent form that the child signs, because it makes the child feel important. We have been cited by the IRB for failing to make 5-7 year-old children sign the assent form in CURSIVE instead of printing their names. Explaining that children do not learn cursive writing until later in school and that some of our subjects may never learn to write at all did not convince the board to allow printing. Now, if a subject prints his name, the parent must sign a statement that attests that the child cannot write in cursive .