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| **Obtaining Parental Permission and Child Assent** **When a research study involves children, additional safeguards apply to protect their rights and welfare.  The University of Utah IRB provides the following guidance on the essentials of parental permission and child assent:** |

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| A circle with a couple of people and a child  AI-generated content may be incorrect. |

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| **Parental Permission**: * Before including a child in research, **written permission** from their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be obtained, unless the IRB has specifically waived this requirement. The number of parents required to give permission depends on the study’s risk category:
	+ Minimal risk or greater than minimal risk with direct benefit: The IRB decides if one or both parents are needed.
	+ Greater than minimal risk without direct benefit or not otherwise approvable research (45 CFR 46.406 & .407): Permission from both parents is typically required.

**Child Assent:** * Assent means the child’s affirmative agreement to participate. The IRB generally requires assent from children 7 years and older, though this depends on:
	+ The child’s age
	+ Maturity
	+ Psychological state
	+ Or if a child is cognitively unable to assent due to condition or disability.
* The plan for obtaining and documenting assent must be described in the study application. The University recommends separate, age-appropriate assent forms for:
	+ **Younger children (7-11 years)**
	+ **Older children (12-17 years)**
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| A white megaphone in a green circle  AI-generated content may be incorrect. |

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| **When a Child Turns 18**When a child reaches the legal age of consent while participating in research, informed consent **MUST** be obtained to continue. This requirement applies to registry studies where data is still being collected and submitted.   |

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