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Approaches to Participatory Research with Young Children

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Welcome
Sessions aims

To consider challenges to young children’s participation in research
To identify the capabilities of young children and their preferred means of responding
To examine an example of participatory research
Young children are social and active meaning makers who show interest, knowledge and skills in a variety of engagements (Marsh, 2004)

Increasing international interest in participatory methods and developing methods for “listening to children”
Perceived challenges

Hill (2006) argues that adults’ views, including the underestimation of children capacities, are significant barriers to participation.

A key challenge is to ensure children have the space to articulate their views and perspectives beyond the constraints of adult views, interpretation and agenda (Waller, 2006).
Young children in deficit?

Young children can…

Research shouldn’t aim to be “child-friendly” but be “participant-friendly” (Fraser, 2004).
Potentials and possibilities

Clark and Moss (2001; 2005) demonstrate the potency and value of listening to young children.
Potentials and possibilities

Young children’s meaning making is supported by their concurrent physical engagements (Hackett, 2014; Yamada-Rice, 2013)
My study
My analysis

Identification of the use of space

The way the images are combined to convey space and movement through an environment.

Images in the same area placed in relation to one another- items on a bench under notice board.

Doorway to skating rink.

Kiosk

Corridor

Entrance
My analysis

Use of cropping and framing

The original photographs

The mapped images

Reflects what is most salient in the original photograph
My analysis

Perspective

Considers viewpoint as you move through the setting
My conclusions

Children show an awareness of the ways texts may be presented to convey meaning to an audience.

Visual mapping allowed young children’s practices and perspectives to be articulated.

The methodology used within the study represents a pedagogical approach.
Research methods summary

Different methods may be used with young children, including photography, mapping, videos and focused conversation.

Choice of methods allows knowledge and perspectives to be articulated.
Questions
Further reading


