

Proposal ID: 3296

Embedding rights into early years research: A hierarchical model of children's research participation rights, based on information, understanding, voice, and influence (SELF-ORGANISED SYMPOSIUM)

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Theme

How much progress has been made on ensuring children's rights and what forums can we create to hear and respond to the voices of children and their parents?

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Children's rights, democracy & participation

Non-Presenting Authors

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Research aims

This presentation aims to create a forum for thought-provoking discussion about the levels of research participation that are afforded to young children.

Relationship to previous research works

Based on the final conclusions of a PhD study that focussed on early childhood research ethics and participation, the Hierarchy of Children's Research Participation was developed.

Theoretical and conceptual framework

With the Interactive Narrative Approach to early childhood research as its foundation, Roger Hart's 1992 ladder of participation was extended to incorporate the four UNCRC participation rights found in Article 12 - information, understanding, voice, and influence.

Paradigm, methodology and methods

The Hierarchy of Children's Research Participation illuminates the range of research participation levels accessible to young children and how children's participation rights can be embedded more effectively in research. This presentation examines the transformative effect that different levels of informing can have on the quality of children's understanding as research participants. It demonstrates how 'informing' flows on to affect a child's ability to express their views and the degree to which their voices ultimately exert influence.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were given priority throughout this study.

Main finding or discussion

Each of the four elements of information, understanding, voice, and influence plays an essential role in upholding children's rights in research. This innovative Hierarchy of Children's Research Participation emphasizes the importance of weaving rights throughout a research project from its conception, rather than applying children's rights in isolation.

Implications, practice or policy

Considering rights in a more integrated manner has the potential to democratize participation experiences for young children and to enhance the way young children are valued as citizens with rights to meaningful

participation.

Keywords: participatory research, rights-based research, UNCRC Article 12, hierarchy of research participation, Interactive Narrative Approach

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Chairing opportunity

I would be willing to chair a symposium (including one which I am not presenting in)

