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Conference or Workshop Item

Title: Young children aged 0-8 years can be researchers

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Young Children aged 0-8 Years can be Researchers

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Increasingly...

...children are seen as co-researchers or researchers, rather than research objects

(Christensen and James, 2008)
Young Children aged 0-8 Years can be Researchers...informed by...

**Psychology:**

Neuro-imaging, folk psychology and other psychological tools reveal potentially sophisticated cognitive abilities in infants and young children (Gopnik, Meltzoff and Kuhl, 1999; Goswami and Bryant, 2007).
Young Children aged 0-8 Years can be Researchers...informed by...

‘New sociology of childhood’

- Children are competent from birth (James, Jenks and Prout, 1998; Jenks, 2005).
- Children are ‘social actors’ (Hardman, 1973), a perception exists of (James and James, 2008)
- Dependent on context, children can enact change, (United Nations, 1989; Lansdown, 2005).
- Varied lenses for understanding young children’s behaviours have emerged (Edwards, Forman and Gandini, 1998)
- Development of children’s participation (Percy-Smith and Thomas, 2010).
Young Children aged 0-8 Years can be Researchers...informed by capabilities

‘...the alternative functionings the person can achieve and from which he or she can choose one collection’

(Sen, 1993:31)
However...

• children’s research remains colonised by adults relaying their own agendas through children

• ...and dominated by engagement with children 8 and older
  (Fielding, 2001; Kellett, 2005).

• Recognition of young children aged 0-8 years researching their own agendas is slow in its development
  (Redmond, 2008)
Proposition: Young Children aged 0-8 Years can be Researchers

Some questions...

• How can children aged 0-8 years be conceptualised as researchers?

• What warrants may be established for young children’s research?

• What factors may support or inhibit young children’s research?

• How might young children’s research be disseminated and used?
Proposition:
Young Children aged 0-8 Years can be Researchers

More comments?
More questions?

Thank you
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References


