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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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