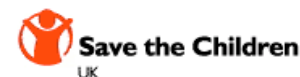


Reflections From the Field: Participatory Research with Children

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The research

- Aims to explore children's perceptions, experiences and understandings of their own lives
- Focuses on meanings and experiences of:
 - Poverty and affluence
 - Social difference and inequality
 - Social exclusion/inclusion

The participants

- Forty children aged 8-13 years
 - Twenty from a disadvantaged area
 - Twenty from an independent fee-paying school
- Small separate groups of boys and girls
- Telephone interviews with one parent

Methodology

- Participatory approach
 - Children as the experts about their own lives
 - Selecting methods
 - To evaluate the process
- Comparative approach
 - Reflexivity between groups

Issues from the field

- Managing 'organised chaos'
- Reconciling different points of view
- Balancing different approaches
- Ethical dilemmas
- Discussing abstract concepts
- Maintaining sustained verbal involvement
- The impact of the setting

Participatory techniques used

- 'Mapping' and drawing
- 'Fill-a-house'
- 'Child-like-you'
- Playing games
- Role plays
- 'Reporters'
- Devising and administering questionnaires
- Planning and keeping photo diaries
- 'Walkabouts'

Lessons learnt so far

- Building rapport
- Setting clear parameters
- More frequent shorter sessions
- Conducting one or two activities at once
- The importance of flexibility and partnership
- Giving feedback and encouragement

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