How to conduct research with children?

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The presentation examines how to conduct research with children.

In the research project "Residential area experienced by families with children – well-being in challenging environment" we combined visual and verbal methods (photo elicitation interviews and children’s group discussions based on children’s drawings) when researching the well-being of 2-16-year old children and young people.

In the presentation, we are representing how to conduct research with children and what kind of benefits and obstacles different research methods contains. We discuss how children’s perspective research methods could be further developed and what issues should be taken into consideration. The appearance of a children’s voice is supported by that children themselves are designing the research methods and they have possibility of influencing the use of research methods throughout the process.

As one of the research results we found out that even though it is difficult to find ideal methods, combining visual and verbal research methods expands children’s power and researchers may reach the perspectives of children and young people. By combining two methods, it is possible to achieve a wider view of children’s subjective well-being. We also found out that co-researching requires situationality, ethical sensitivity, reciprocity and the researcher’s willingness to hear the perspectives of children.


Keywords: subjective well-being, visual and verbal methods, studies of child perspective