

The International ERIC Project – Ethical Research Involving Children



Over the past thirty years significant progress has been made in recognising the importance and legitimacy of children’s participation in research. Influenced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and an interdisciplinary approach to theorising childhood offered through Childhood Studies, researchers have been giving much closer attention to safe and respectful ways of involving children in research. Nevertheless, many researchers report feeling isolated in their research activities, especially when it comes to making informed decisions about complex ethical and methodological issues.

The Ethical Research Involving Children (ERIC) project aims to assist researchers and the research community to understand, plan and conduct ethical research involving children and young people in any geographical, social, cultural or methodological context.

The resources developed from the project provide a rich repository of evidence-based information to assist researchers, and guide and improve research involving children. The approach encourages critical reflection, dialogue and collegiality within and across the international research community.

Research Design

This major collaborative project involved two years of research and international consultation made possible through a partnership involving the Centre for Children and

Outputs to Date



Resources for Researchers
[Full Compendium of ERIC](#)

[Resources](#)

[International Literature Review](#)

Academic Publications
See below

Young People (SCU); UNICEF Office of Research, Innocenti; Childwatch International Research Network; and the Children's Issues Centre, University of Otago. The project involved several phases:

- Formal consultation with almost 400 highly respected researchers and other stakeholders internationally who contributed their expertise;
- A major survey documenting current practices and key ethical concerns in 46 countries;
- A comprehensive review of existing evidence about ethical issues, concerns and best practice in research involving children;
- Development of open access resources and accompanying website.

The open access resources are available in a print-based compendium and online via a dedicated website (childethics.com). These extensive resources, including an International Charter for Research Involving Children, have now been translated into six languages and, to date, have been accessed by researchers and others, including governing research bodies, in over 170 countries.

The CCYP research team continues to monitor the forum and update the resource library for the ERIC website (<http://childethics.com>). Through this on-going work, ERIC is leading the way in providing a central, international hub for raising standards of ethical research practice in any research context where children are involved.

Research Team

Investigators: Prof Anne Graham (CCYP, SCU), Dr Mary Ann Powell (CCYP, SCU), A/Prof Nicola Taylor (University of Otago), Dr Donnah Anderson (CCYP, SCU), Dr Robyn Fitzgerald (CCYP, SCU).

Research Partners: UNICEF Office of Research, Innocenti; Childwatch International Research Network.

Academic Publications to Date

Book

Graham, A, Powell, M, Taylor, N, Anderson, D & Fitzgerald, R 2013, *Ethical Research Involving Children*, UNICEF Office of Research: Innocenti, Florence, Italy. ISBN: 9788865220238.

Associated Academic Publications

Canosa, A., Graham, A., & Wilson, E. (2018). Reflexivity and Ethical Mindfulness in Participatory Research with Children: What does it really look like? *Childhood*, 25(3), 400-415. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0907568218769342>

Powell, M., Graham, A. & Truscott, J. (2016). Ethical Research Involving Children: Facilitating Reflexive Engagement. *Qualitative Research Journal*, 16 (2), 197-208. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/QRJ-07-2015-0056>

Canosa, A. & Graham, A. (2016). Ethical Tourism Research Involving Children. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 61, 219-22. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2016.07.006>

Graham, A., Powell, M. & Truscott, J. (2016). Exploring the Nexus Between Participatory Methods and Ethics in Early Childhood Research. *Australian Journal of Early Childhood*, 41(1), 82-89. Link: https://epubs.scu.edu.au/ccyp_pubs/186/

Graham, A., Powell, MA., & Taylor, N. (2015). Ethical Research Involving Children: Putting the Evidence into Practice, *Family Matters*, 96, 23-28. Published version available from: <https://aifs.gov.au/sites/default/files/fm96-ag.pdf>

Graham, A., Powell, MA., & Taylor, N. (2015). Ethical Research Involving Children: Encouraging Reflexive Engagement in Research with Children and Young People, *Children & Society*, 29(5), 331-343. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/chso.12089>

Reports

Powell, MA. (2012). *Ethical Principles, dilemmas and risks in collecting data on violence against children: a review of available literature*. Report prepared for Statistics and Monitoring Section, Division of Policy and Strategy, UNICEF: New York.

Powell, MA., Graham, A., Taylor, N., Newell, S. & Fitzgerald, R. (2011). *Building capacity for ethical research with children and young people: an international research project to examine the ethical issues and challenges in undertaking research with and for children in different majority and minority world contexts*. Report prepared for the Childwatch International Research Network: Oslo, Norway.

