

Protecting Children's Rights in Early Childhood Education: What Ethical Measures are in Place for School-based Social Research?

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KEYWORDS School-based Research. Child Participation. Child Protection. Ethical Principles. Policy Framework. South Africa

ABSTRACT This paper explores some of the documents on ethical requirements to lay the framework for further interrogation regarding ethical considerations with school-based social research involving children. The researchers argue that within the context of educational and social research, the current ethical framework policies provide insufficient understanding and protection for diverse categories of children in early childhood development (ECD). The researchers argue that as vast attention is shifting towards ECD research, it is imperative that appropriate policies addressing children's rights as participants are put in place. The researchers also argue that current ethical framework policies, which appear to originate from a purely medical and health perspective offer insufficient protection for children at various ECD centers visited during a research fieldwork. The paper proposes that formal national ethical framework policy for social and educational research involving children be formulated to guide researchers in this specific field of study. Further recommendations have also been made.