FAQ 6: How young a child can one work with?

What's the issue?

In any research with children, including that relating to media and the internet, age differences are consistently amongst the most important background factors. Reporting findings by age, charting age trends, or comparing age groups is expected by most readers. It would be the absence of age differences, not their discovery, that would be counterintuitive, if and when it occurred. A useful principle, therefore, is to assume that each child is

written instructions about the interview techniques and the ethical principles of the research. The interviews usually took place in the school corridor and took about 10–20 minutes; 194 students took part in the project, and 620 interviews were conducted.

The interview method was found to be fluent and efficient. The relationship between the interviewers and respondents was informal, and younger children found it easy to talk with their older students. Ninety-eight per cent of adolescents mentioned that interviewing was a positive experience, and 95% were interes(s a positiv)d.

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