

Sources on Methods of Research of Children and Important Examples of Research and Children in Educational Ministry

Compiled and annotated by Don Ratcliff (updated May, 2000)

Sources on Methods of Research of Children

Alton-Lee, A., Nuthall, G., & Patrick, J. Reframing classroom research: A lesson from the private world of children. *Harvard Educational Review*, vol. 63, Spring 1993.

Christenson, P., & James, A. (Eds.). *Research with children: Perspectives and practices*. New York: Falmer, 1999.

Cohen, D. H., & Stern, V. *Observing and recording the behavior of small children*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1997.

Copeland, A. P., & White, K. M. *Studying families*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1991.

Corsaro, W. A. Entering the child's world—Research strategies for field entry and data collection in a preschool setting. In J. Green & C. Wallat (Eds.), *Ethnography and language in educational settings*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex, 1981.

Corsaro, W. A. *The Sociology of Childhood*. Newbury Park, CA: Pine Forge, 1997.

Driscoll, G. *How to study the behavior of children*. New York: Teachers College, Columbia University, 1958.

Elkind, D. Piaget's semi-clinical interview and the study of spontaneous religion. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, vol. 4, 1964. Also see an abbreviated version in J. R. Tisdale (Ed.), *Growing edges in the psychology of religion*, Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1980.

Elkind, D. Research and evaluation in teaching religion. In J. M. Lee & P. C. Rooney, *Toward a future for religious education*. Dayton, OH: Pflaum, 1970.

Fine, G. A., & Sandstrom, K. L. *Knowing children: Participant observation with minors*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1988.

Goodwin, W. L., & Goodwin, L. D. *Understanding quantitative and qualitative research in early childhood education*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1996.

Graue, M. E., & Walsh, D. J. *Studying children in context*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1998.

- Greig, A., & Taylor, J. *Doing research with children*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1998.
- Hartman, D. P. Design, measurement, and analysis: Technical issues in developmental research. In M. H. Bornstein & M. C. Lamb (Eds.), *Developmental psychology: An advanced textbook*, 3rd ed. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum, 1992.
- Hatch, J. A. Young children as informants in classroom studies. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, June, 1990.
- Henry, P. (Ed. Mussen). *Handbook of research methods in child development*.
- Holmes, R. M. *Fieldwork with children*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1998.
- Izard, C. E. (Ed.), *Measuring emotions in infants and children*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982.
- Miller, S. A. *Developmental research methods*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1987.
- Morgenthaler, S. *Exploring children's spiritual development*. Chicago: Pillars Press, 1999.
- Mortensen, K. V. *Form and content in children's human figure drawings*. New York University Press.
- Parker, W. C. Interviewing children: Problems and promise. *Journal of Negro Education*, vol. 53, 1984.
- Pellegrini, A. D. *Applied child study: A developmental approach*, 3rd ed. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum, 1998.
- Pellegrini, A. D. *Observing children in their natural worlds*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum, 1996.
- Pellegrini, A. D. Ethological studies of the categorization of children's social behavior in preschool: A review. *Early Education and Development*, 1992.
- Rich, J. *Interviewing children and adolescents*. London: Macmillan, 1968.
- Stanley, B., & Seiber, J. E. *Social research on children and adolescents: Ethical issues*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1992.
- Stevenson, J., & Skuse, D. *Research methods with children*.
- Tammivaara, J., & D. S. Enright. On eliciting information: Dialogues with child informants. *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*, vol. 76, 1986.

Thomas, G. V., & Silk, A. M. *An introduction to the psychology of children's drawings*. New York: New York University Press.

Vasta, R. *Studying children: An introduction to research methods*.

Yarrow, L. J. Interviewing children. In P. H. Mussen (Ed.), *Handbook of research methods in child development*, 1960.

[Also see "Ethical standards for research with children," from Society for Research in Child Development, Directory of Members, 1993 (312-702-7470); and "Subpart D—Additional protections for children involved as subjects in research," Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 46, 1994. Also see the Society for Research in Child Development web pages: <http://www.srcd.org>. Congregational culture study is mentioned by Morgenthaler (see above) and described in detail in Nancy Ammerman, *Studying congregations*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.

Important Examples of Research and Children in Educational Ministry

Becker, P. M. Children in worship: An ongoing project of the Center for the Study of Children's Ethical Development. Association of Christians Teaching Sociology Annual Conference, Wheaton, IL, June 6, 1997. (Research currently in progress--see Morgenthaler work.)

Coles, R. *The spiritual life of children*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990. (Compared several religious traditions. Coles is a great author and researcher, but where is the systematic analysis of the data?)

Cram, R. H. Knowing God: Children, play, and paradox. *Religious Education*, Winter, 1996. (A great beginning for ethnographic study of children's experiences and understandings.)

Elkind, D. The child's conception of his religious denomination: I, II, III. *The Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 1961-63. (Very interesting classic studies that should be a beginning point for a good literature review of children's thinking, heavily Piagetian.) Also see Elkind's summary of this and other research on religion in children in *The Child's Reality: Three Developmental Themes*, Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 1978 (New York: Wiley cited as distributor).

Erricker, C., Erricker, J., Ota, C., & Fletcher, M. *The education of the whole child*. London: Cassell, 1997. (A report on the Children and Worldviews Project in the U.K., which has a strong emphasis upon children's spirituality.)

Fyn. *Mr. God, this is Anna*. (This was recommended to me--I haven't seen it.)

Goldman, R. *Religious thinking from childhood to adolescence*. New York: Seabury, 1964. (The classic study that has generated heated response for decades.)

Hay, D., & Nye, R. *The spirit of the child*. London: Fount/HarperCollins, 1998. (A very innovative exploration of children's spirituality, breaking new ground in this important area of research. Hay was the director of a research unit at Oxford University, and Nye is now at Cambridge University.)

Heller, D. *The children's God*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1986. (Interesting, sometimes a bit simplistic.)

Moore, J. R. *Children's religious thinking: Thinking, worship forms, and church responsibility*. Ed.D. dissertation, Trinity International University, 1995. (This dissertation is a study of leaders' perceptions of children's experiences of educational ministry, not a study of children. However, the literature review of children's understandings of faith is almost a meta-analysis.)

Morgenthaler, S. *Children in worship*. Chicago: Pillars Press, 1999. (A report on the first phase of the Children in Worship project at Concordia University.)

Oser, F., & Gmunder, P. *Religious judgement: A developmental approach*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1991. (Interesting, but theologically quite a distance from an evangelical perspectives.)

Peshkin, A. Odd man out: The participant observer in an absolutist setting. *Sociology of Education*, vol. 57, pp. 254-264, 1984. (A highly respected qualitative researcher studied a fundamentalist school and describes the limits of a participant observer as well as deception involved. Also see his excellent book on this research.)

Ratcliff, D. E. The use of play in Christian education. *Christian Education Journal*, 1985. (A very small experimental study of children's learning of roles in a church setting.)

Ratcliff, D. E. Behavioral discipline in Sunday School. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 1982. (A behavioral intervention study in a church context.)

Ratcliff, D. E. Control during recess transitions at a Christian school. Accepted for publication. (A religious school, not a church.)

Ratcliff, D. E. Ritualistic behavior of children in school hallways (to be presented at the International Conference on Children's Spirituality, West Sussex, U.K.. (This concept was first mentioned in chapter ten of my dissertation—*An elementary school hallway: Social formations and meanings outside the classroom*, The University of Georgia, 1995. University Microfilms #9531229. It was developed more fully in subsequent analysis and presented at the 1995 Annual Conference of the Qualitative Interest Group (QUIG), Athens, GA, "An elementary school hallway: A ritual highway," and later elaborated in secondary analysis by upper division research students conducting secondary analysis at Toccoa Falls College, 1997.)

Smoliak, W. *Thinking about God through childhood and adolescence*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of British Columbia, 1998. (Also summarized in *Psychological studies on spiritual and religious development*, ed. K. Reich, F. Oser, W. Scarlett, Lengerich, Germany: Pabst Science Publishers, 1999.)

Tamminen, K. *Religious development in childhood and youth: An empirical study*. Helsinki: Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia, 1991. (A researcher I greatly admire; spent most of his professional life at the University of Helsinki researching religious concepts of children. This is the summary of a lifetime of work. Comes from a Piagetian perspective.)

Also see numerous studies summarized in K. E. Hyde, *Religion in childhood and adolescence*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press; L. J. Francis, W. K. Kay, & W. S. Campbell (Eds.), *Research in religious education*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys; and several fine reports on research in Christian schools in *Journal of Research in Christian Education*. See my website for a two-part, 100+ page review of the methods used in research of children in school contexts: <http://don.ratcliff.net/qual/mydesign.html> (address is case sensitive).