

KEY CRITERION

The content and circumstances of the research must be such that the child and its parents are unlikely to get upset or disturbed.

Research with children guideline



The age of who can give consent for research and who can't varies per country. This is a cultural (or legal) issue. Consult a local expert if you are unsure.

LOCAL LAW AND STANDARDS ALWAYS PREVAIL

No local standard?
Global age ranges:
child ≤ 12
young person 13 - 17

My local age ranges:
child: _____
young person: _____

GETTING CONSENT

First get consent of the responsible adult, then ask the child for their agreement.

What the responsible adult must be told

✓ Name and contact details of the researcher and/or research organisation.

✓ The nature of the data to be collected, including any data that might be considered sensitive or not age appropriate.

✓ The purpose of collecting the data must be specified.

✓ How the data will be used and protected.

✓ The reasons for asking a child to participate and likely benefits or potential impact of the research.

✓ An outline of activities that may be undertaken (e.g. product testing).

✓ Description of any incentive being offered.

✓ The procedure for giving and verifying consent.

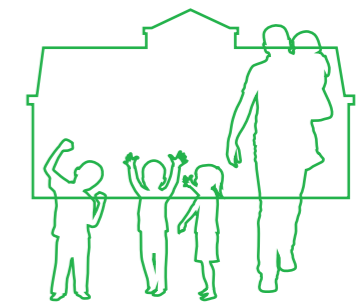
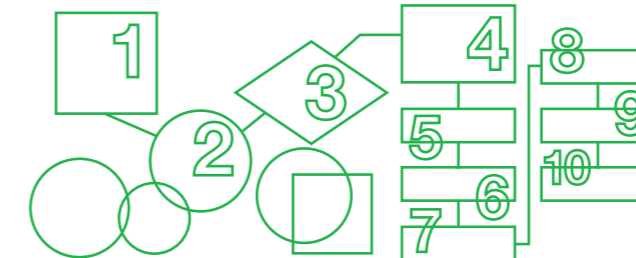
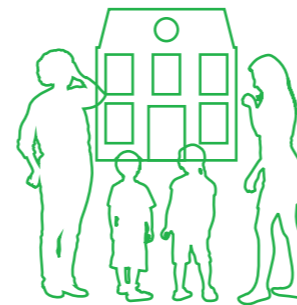
✓ Request for the responsible adult's contact details for verification of consent.



Don't forget

The researcher must record the identity of the responsible adult giving consent and what their relationship to the child is.

DATA COLLECTION



Face-to-face research

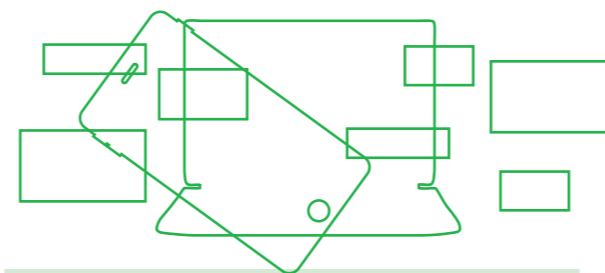
- Never knowingly approach a child unless an adult is with them.
- First get consent of the responsible adult, then get agreement from the child.
- Keep the responsible adult close at hand and fully briefed.

Research set-up phase

- Take care to ensure that the research topic and questions asked will not upset the child or responsible adult.
- The research method and design must be fit for the age, skill and cognitive ability of the child.
- Incentives offered must be age appropriate.

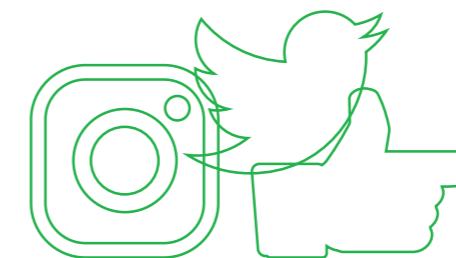
Research at school or child care

- First get consent from the owner or manager, then get consent from the responsible adult, then get agreement from the child.
- Whether a teacher or caregiver can give consent depends on culture and local law.



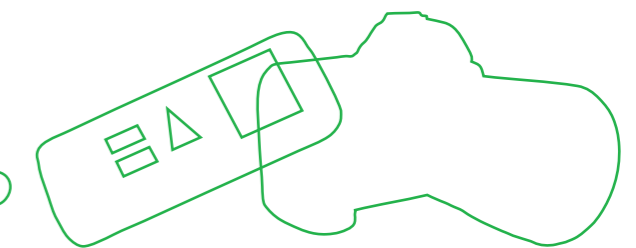
Phone, email and online research

- If it's not clear if you're dealing with a child, determine their age before anything else. If it is a child, do not gather any further information, but gather the contact details of the responsible adult.



Social media

- Filter out any data likely to be from a child.
- Mask responses to ensure children cannot be identified or get consent from the responsible adult.
- Age requirements for children's social media registration may vary per country



Photographing and recording children

- First, get consent from the responsible adult, then get agreement from the child. If a child is inadvertently pictured or recorded, images and voices must be made unidentifiable or deleted.