

	Details
Name	Bridget McGreal
Course & Year	MA in Family Support Studies, 2016.
Title of Research	Children and Young People's Participation in Education Welfare Services. An exploration of children and young people's involvement in the decisions made at planning meetings in relation to their school attendance.
Abstract	<p>This study was designed to explore children and young people's involvement in the decisions made at planning meetings in relation to their school attendance within Education Welfare Services of Tusla, The Child and Family Agency. This study aims to identify the current level and experience of participation of children/young people in Educational Welfare Services through both qualitative and quantitative methods. A total of six children/young people and eight Educational Welfare Officers took part in the research. The information was gathered by questionnaires completed by both children/young people and Educational Welfare Officers and eight semi-structured interviews with Educational Welfare Officers. The main objectives for the study were, to explore if young people across the age range of 6-16 years are involved in these meetings, to ascertain to what level the children/young people participated in decision making and if this participation is compliant with the Lundy Model of Participation, to examine Educational Welfare Officers level of self-assessed confidence/ competence in engaging young people in decision making and to explore the views of the Educational Welfare Officers in relation to enabling factors, barriers and benefits to children/young people participating in meetings that affect their school attendance.</p> <p>The main findings show children/young people 6-16 years participate in meetings regarding their school attendance, the majority in the upper age bracket 13-15 years. There is reasonable compliance with the Lundy Model of participation from the adult's perspective. Children/young people report a lower level of participation at meetings regarding their school attendance. Educational Welfare Officers have identified the need for training in this area. All Educational Welfare Officers identify the factors, barriers and benefits in line with current literature.</p>
References	<p>Ackermann, L., Thomas, F., Hart, J., & Newman, J. (2003). <i>Understanding and evaluating Children's participation</i>. Plan International.</p> <p>Adu-Gyamfi, J. (2013). Can children and young people be empowered in participatory initiatives? : Perspectives from young people's participation in policy formulation and implementation in Ghana. <i>Children and Youth Services Review</i> 35 (2013) 1766-1772.</p> <p>Anderson-Butcher D. (2000). <i>Exploring the relationships among participation in youth development programs, risk and protective factors, and problem behaviors</i>. Unpublished doctoral dissertation: University of Utah, Salt Lake City</p> <p>Arnstein, Sherry R. (1969). "A ladder of Citizen Participation," <i>JAIP</i>, Vol. 35(4) 216-224.</p> <p>Bell, J. (2005). <i>Doing your own research project: A Guide for First Time Researchers in Education and Social Science</i> (4th Ed.). Philadelphia, USA: Open</p>

University Press.

Bell, M. (2011). *Promoting children's rights in social work and social care: a guide to participatory practice*, London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Berelson, B. (1952). *Content Analysis in Communication Research*, Glencoe, IL: Free Press.

Bessant, J. (2003). "Youth participation in a New Mode of Government" *Policy Studies*, Vol. 24 No. 2 pp. 87-100.

Boyden, J. (1990). Childhood and the policy makers: A comparative perspective on the globalization of childhood in A. James & A. Prout (Eds), *In Constructing and Reconstructing Childhood: Contemporary Issues in the Sociological Study of Childhood*. London: Falmer Press.

Boylan, J. and Braye, S. (2006). Paid, professional and proceduralised: Can legal and policy frameworks for child advocacy give voice to children and young people? *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*. 28: 233-249.

Bragg, S (2007). *Consulting Young People: A Review of the Literature*. London: Open University Press.

Brewer, J. (2004). Ethnography. In C. Cassell & G. Symon (Eds), *Essential Guide to qualitative methods in organisational research* (pp.312-322). London: Sage.

Bryman (2008). *Social Research Methods*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Buhler, C. (1933/1959.) *Der menschliche Lebenslauf als psychologisches Problem* (Leipzig, Hirzel/Zweite vollig veränderte Auflage erschienen in Göttingen: Hogrefe Verlag für Psychologie).

Bunreacht Na hEireann, Constitution of Ireland (1937). Dublin: Government Publication.

Carr, S. (2007). Participation, Power, Conflict and Change: theorising dynamics of service user participation in the social care system of England and Wales. *Critical Social Policy* 27 (2), 266-276.

Cavet, J. and Sloper, P. (2004). 'The participation of children and young people in decisions about UK service development' *Child Care, Health and Development*, Vol. 35 (6) pp. 613-21.

Chase, E., Simon, A., Wigfall, V., et al. (2006). *Findings from an Evaluation of the Voice Advocacy Service*. London: Thomas Coram Research Unit.

Clerkin, A. and Creaven, A. (2013). "Pupil engagement". In E. Eivers and A. Clerkin (eds), *National schools, international contexts: Beyond the PIRLS and TIMSS test results*. Dublin: Educational Research Centre.

Cloke, C. & Davies, M. (1997). *Participation and Empowerment in Child protection*, Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Crivella, G., Morrow, V., and Wilson, E. (2013). *Young Lives Longitudinal Qualitative Research: A Guide for Researchers, Young Lives*. [Online] available at <http://www.younglives.org.uk/files/technical-notes/tn26-qual-guide-for-researchers>. Accessed: 20 October 2015.

Cutrona, C. E. (2000). "Social Support Principles for Strengthening Families: Messages from America" in Canavan, J., Dolan, P., & Pinkerton, J. (eds) *Family Support. Direction from Diversity*. London: Jessica Kingsley.

Daly, F. (2014). *"It's About Me": Young People's Experiences of Participating in their Care Reviews*. Dublin: Empowering Children in Care.

Daniel, B., Wassell, S., and Gilligan, R. (1999). "Child Development for Child Care and Protection Workers". *Child Abuse Review* Vol 10 70-73.

Davey, C., Shaw, C. and Burke, T. (2010a). *Children's Participation in Decision-making: Survey of participation workers*. London: Participation Works.

Davey, C., Shaw, C. and Burke, T. (2010b). *Children's Participation in Decision-making: A Children's View Report*. London: Participation Works.

DCYA (2011). *Listen to our voices; Hearing Children and Young people Living in Care of the State*. Dublin: Government Publications.

DCYA (2013a). *Young Voices Have Your Say*. Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Dublin: Government Publications.

DCYA (2015). *National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.2015-2020*. Dublin: Government Publications. Available at: www.dcyia.ie. Accessed: 10 November 2015

Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2005). *Young voices – Guidelines on how to involve children and young people in your work*. Dublin: Government Publications.

Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2012). *Life as a Child and young person in Ireland: Report of a National Consultation*. Dublin: Government publications.

Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2014). *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*. Dublin: Government Publications.

Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2015). *National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making, 2015-2020*. Dublin: Government Publications.

Department of Education and Science (2005). *Delivering Equality of Opportunity*

in Schools (DEIS). Dublin: Government Publications.

Department of Health and Children and HSE (2008). *Your Service, Your Say: National Strategy for Service User Involvement in the Irish Health Service, 2008-2013*. Dublin: Department of Health and Children.

Devaney, C. (2011). *Family Support as an Approach to Working with Children and Families*. Berlin: Lambert Publishing.

Devine, D. (2002). "Children's citizenship and the structuring of adult/child relations in the primary school". *Childhood*, Vol. 9 No. 3, pp. 303-21.

Diener, E. and Crandall, R. (1978). *Ethics in Social and Behavioral Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Dolan, P., Canavan, J. & Pinkerton, J. (2006). *Family Support as Reflective Practice*, London, Jessica Kingsley.

Egerter, S., Braveman, P., Sadegh-Nobari, T., Grossman-Kahn, R., & Dekker, M. (2009). *Education Matter for Health* (Issue Brief 6). Retrieved from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (website: <http://www.rwif.org/pr/product.jsp?id=48252>). Accessed: 03 December 2015

Emerson L and Lloyd K. (2014). *Are children's views being sought, listened to and taken seriously?* ARK, Belfast.

Erikson, E.H. (1968). *Identity. Youth and Crisis*. London: Faber and Faber.

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, 4th Edition, London: Sage.

Garbarino, J. (1992). *Children and families in the social environment*. New York: Aldine.

Gardner, R. (2003). *Supporting families: child protection in the community*. Chichester: Wiley.

Gilligan, R. (1995). "Family Support and Child Welfare: Realising the Promise of the Child Care Act" in H. Ferguson, & P. Kenny (eds.) *On behalf of the Child Protection and Child Care Act*. Dublin: Farmer.

Gilligan, R. (2001). *Promoting resilience: A resourced guide on working with children in the care system*. London: British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering.

Gilligan, R., (2000). Adversity, resilience and young people: The protective value of positive school and spare time experiences. *Children & society*, 14(1), pp.37-47.

Government of Ireland, *Child and Family Agency Act (2013)*. Stationery Office, Dublin.

Government of Ireland, *Education Welfare Act (2000)*. Stationery Office, Dublin.

Gregory, I. and Purcell, L., (2014). Extended school non-attenders' views: developing best practice, *Educational Psychology in Practice*, 30:1, 37-50.

Gunn, R. (2008). The power to shape decisions? An exploration of young people's power in participation. *Health & Social Care in the Community*, 16(3), 253-261.

Halsey, K., Murfield, J., Harland, J.L., & Lord, P. (2006). *The Voice of Young People: An Engine for Improvement? Scoping the Evidence*. University of York: The National Foundation for Educational Research.

Hammersley, M., (2000). The relevance of qualitative research, *Oxford Review of Education*, 26, 3, 393-405.

Hart, R. (1992). Children's Participation: From tokenism to citizenship, UNICEF International Development Centre (Innocenti research Centre) Florence: UNICEF.

Heckhausen, J. (1999). *Developmental Regulation in Adulthood*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hoy, M. A. (2013). *The participation promise of family group conferencing – theory or practice?: a qualitative comparison study of children's participation in family group conferences and child protection case conferences*. Belfast: Queen's University.

James, A., Jenks, C., & Prout, A. (1999). *Theorising Childhood*. London: Polity Press.

Jelicic, H., Gibb, J., La Valle, I., et al (2013). *Involved by Right: The voice of the child in the child protection conferences*. London: National Children's Bureau.

Keenaghan, C. and the HSE Expert Advisory Group for Children (2008). *HSE Policy on Engaging Children in Planning, Design Development, Delivery and Evaluation of Services* [online]. <http://www.childandfamilyresearch.ie/publications/policy-practice>. Accessed: 03 December 2015

Kennan, D., Redmond, S., Devaney, C., Landy, F., Canavan, J. (2015). *Towards the development of a participation strategy for children and young people* Galway: UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre.

Kelleher, C., Seymour, M. and Halpenny, AM.. (2014). *Promoting the Participation of Seldom Heard Young People: A Review of the Literature on Best Practice Principles* Dublin: DIT.

Kilkelly, U. (2007). *Barriers to the realisation of children's rights in Ireland*. Dublin: Ombudsman for Children.

Kilkelly, U. and Lundy, L. (2006). 'Children's Rights in Action: Using the

Convention on the Rights of the Child as an auditing tool', *Child and Family Law Quarterly*.

Kjorholt, A.T. (2002). "Small is powerful: Discussion on Children and Participation in Norway" *Childhood* Vol 9, No. 1 pp63-82.

Lansdown, G. (1995). *Taking Part: Children's Participation in Decision Making*. London: Institute for Public Policy Research.

Lansdown, G. (2005). "Can you hear me? The right of Children to Participate in Decisions Affecting them" *Working Paper in Early Childhood Development No.36* The Hague: Bernard Van Leer Foundation.

Lansdown, G. (2011). *Every child's right to be heard: A resource guide on the UN committee on the rights of the child general comment No. 12*. London, England: Save the Children/United Nations Children's Fund.

Lansdown, G., (1994). 'Children's Rights' In B. Mayall (ed.) *Children's Childhoods: Observed and Experienced* London: Falmer Press, pp. 33-45.

Lansdown, G., (2001). Promoting children's participation in democratic decision-making (No. innins01/9). UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

Lansdown, G., Jimerson, S., Shahroozi, R. (2014). Children's rights and school psychology: Children's right to participation. *Journal of School Psychology* 52 (2014) 3-12.

Lundy L and McEvoy L. (2012). Children's rights and research processes: Assisting children to (in)formed views. *Childhood* 19: 129-144. [Electronic version]. *Level 3*, 1-19. <http://level3.dit.ie/html/issue3/rooney/rooney.pdf>. Accessed: 20 October 2015

Lundy, L. (2007). "Voice is not enough: Conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child", *British Educational Research Journal*, Vol. 33, No. pp 927-42.

Mason, J. (2006). *Working Paper: Six Strategies for Mixing Methods and Linking Data in Social Science Research Methods* available at: <http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/morgancentre/realities/wps/> Accessed: 20 March 2016

Masten, A. (2001). "Ordinary Magic: Resilience processes in development." *American Psychologist*, 56(3), 227-238.

McKeown, k. (2000). *A Guide to What Works in Family Support Services for Vulnerable Families*. Dublin: Department for Health and Children.

Monk, D. (2002). "Children's Rights in Education – Making sense of contradictions", *Child and Family Law Quarterly*, Vol 14, No. 1 pp.44-56.

Nurmi, J. E. (1993). "Adolescent development in an age-graded context: the role of personal beliefs, goals and strategies in the tackling of developmental tasks and standards", *International Journal of Behavioural Development*, 16, pp. 169-189.

Pinkerton, J, & Dolan, P. (2007). "Family support, social capital, resilience and adolescent coping." *Child and Family Social Work*. 12, pp. 219-228.

Prout, A. & James, A. (1997). "A New Paradigm for the Sociology of Childhood/ Provenance, Promise and Problems" in Allison James and Alan Prout (eds), *Constructing and reconstructing Childhood: Contemporary Issues in the Sociological Study of childhood* (2nd Edition, London: Falmer Press, pp. 7-33.

Richards, J. (2009). Reducing the Barriers to School Attendance: Testing a new way of working. National Educational Welfare Board.

Ritchie, J., Lewis, J., McNaughton, Nicholls, C., Ormston, R. (2003). *Qualitative Research Practice* (2nd Edition), London: Sage.

Robson, C. (2002). *Real world research* (2nded). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Roe, S. and McEvoy, O. (2011). *An Audit of Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making*. Dublin: The Stationary Office.

Rooney, P. (2005). Researching from the inside – Does it comprise validity?

Rutter, M. (1995). Psychosocial Disturbances in Young People: Challenges for Prevention. USA: Cambridge University Press.

Rutter, M., Giller, H., & Hegel, A. (1998). *Antisocial behaviour by Young People*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Santos Pais, M. (2000). *Child Participation*. New York: UNICEF.

Schutt, R. (1996). *Investigating the Social World: the Process and Practice of Research*, London: Pine Forge Press.

Shier, H. (2001). Pathways to participation: Openings, Opportunities and obligations. *Children & Society*, 15(2), 107-117.

Sinclair, R., Franklin, A. (2000). *Young People's Participation, Quality Protects*. Research Briefing No. 3 London: Department of Health.

Sinclair, R. (2004). 'Participation in Practice; Making it Meaningful, Effective and Sustainable', *Children and Society*, 18, pp.106-118.

Smith, A.B. (2007). Children and Young People's Participation: Rights in Education. *International Journal of Children's Rights*, Vol 10, pp73-88.

Spicer, N., & Evans, R. (2005). Developing children and young people's participation in strategic processes: The experience of the children fund initiative.

Social Policy & Society, 5(2), 177-188.

Suhrcke, M. & de Paz Nieves, C. (2011). *The impact of health and health behaviours on educational outcomes in high-income countries: A review of the evidence*. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Teusner, A. (2015). Insider research, validity issues and the OHS professional: one person's journey. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 2015.

The National Children's Office, The Children's Rights Alliance, & The National Youth Council of Ireland, (2005). *Young Voices Guidelines on how to Involve Children and Young people in your Work*. Dublin: The Children's Rights Alliance, Submission to the Joint Committee on Child Protection.

Thomas, N. and O'Kane, C. (1999). Children's participation in reviews and planning meetings when they are looked after in "middle childhood". *Child and Family Social Work* Vol 4: 221-230.

Thornberg, R. and Elvstrand, H. (2012). Children's experiences of democracy, participation and trust in schools. *International Journal of Educational Research* 53 92012) 44-54.

Tisdall, E.K.M., Davis, J.M., and Gallagher, m. (2009b). *reflecting upon children and young people's participation in the UK*. Available at: http://www.academia.edu/1112636/reflecting_upon_children_and_young_people_s_participation_in_the_uk. Accessed: 03 April 2016

Tracy, E.M., (1990). Identifying social support resources of at-risk families. *Social Work*, 35(3), pp.252-258.

Tracy, E.M., Whittaker, J.K., Pugh, A., Kapp, S.N. and Overstreet, E.J., (1994). Support networks of primary caregivers receiving family preservation services: An exploratory study. *Families in Society*, 75(8), p.481.

Tusla (2013). *Investing in Families: Supporting Parents to Improve Outcomes for Children*. Dublin: Child and Family Agency.

Tusla (2015). *Toolkit for Parental Participation*. Dublin: Child and Family Agency.

UN (1989). *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Geneva: UN

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2003). *General Comment No. 5 General measures of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*, CRC/GC/2003/5. Geneva: United Nations.

Vis, S.A., Holtan, A. and Thomas, N. (2012). Obstacles for child participation care and protection cases- why Norwegian social workers find it difficult. *Child Abuse Review* Vol 21(1), 7-23.

Whittaker, J.K. and Garbarino, J. eds., (1983). *Social support networks: Informal helping in the human services*. Transaction Publishers.

E-mail
Address Bridget.McGreal@tusla.ie