

The ethics of researching with children, including children's rights and the UNCRC (1989), and issues around participation and protection.

The ethical guidelines outlined in the code of conduct by the British Psychological Society (BPS) includes 4 core principles: -

- Respect; which includes informed consent, confidentiality, privacy and the right to withdraw.
- Competence; which includes awareness of professional ethics at making ethical decisions.
- Responsibility; which includes protection from harm and debriefing.
- Integrity; which includes honesty (avoiding deception) and addressing misconduct.

When using children in research is extremely important to ensure that ethical guidelines are followed, especially around issues of informed consent, protection from harm and privacy.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights. The UK signed the convention on 19 April 1990, ratified it on 16 December 1991 and it came into force on 15 January 1992.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has 54 articles that set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children are entitled to. The convention also aims to explain how adults and governments must work together to make sure children have access to their rights.

Generally when children are used in a research study parental informed consent is essential. Article 12 suggest that children have the right to provide their consent as well. It also suggests that every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in any matters affecting them, and that these must be taken seriously. Article 16 states that every child has the right to privacy.

This convention ensures that children have the same ethical rights as adults in the research process.

More information from UNICEF can be found online at https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/