

University of Guyana



“Capturing Childhood Thoughts: *This COVID Thing Is a Serious Thing—You Can’t Cough or Sneeze in Peace.*”

Authors

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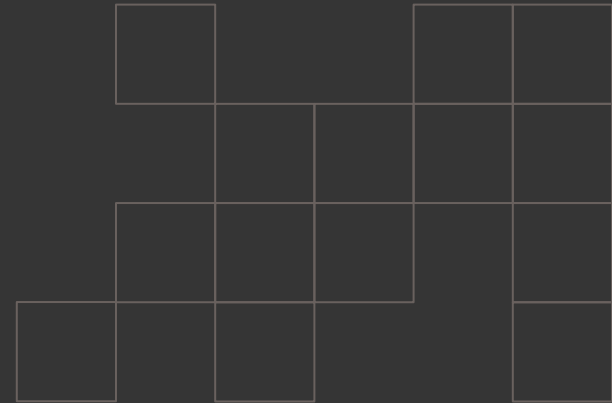
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Meet Ariel

- Ariel is a 7-year-old child from Guyana, and we get to see the pandemic through her eyes.
- Children sometimes feel forced to hide their feelings or needs just to avoid judgment.
- It is important for adults to talk with children and listen to their fears.



Ariel Proactive Response

- She encourages family members to comply with COVID-19 safety rules.
- Young children can understand and implement health practices.



Psychological and Emotional Impact

- She tried to suppress a basic reflex
- Public health messages can cause unintended harm
- Many children viewed symptoms like coughing or sneezing as a sign of danger, death, or rejection.



The Cost of excluding Children

- No one explained what to expect or how she might feel in that situation.
- Children were often excluded from decisions and discussions about public health measures.
- Children can become victims of adult-centered decision-making.



Children are not passive

- The article strongly challenges traditional views
- Ariel shows emotional intelligence, awareness, and social responsibility.



Active Learning

Passive Learning



A more respectful view

- Margaret Donaldson
- Priscilla Alderson

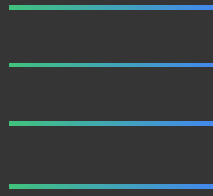


The Importance of listening

- Listening to children must be intentional.
- When adults ignore what children say, they send a message.



Children must be heard in decision-making



It is important to:

- Consult with children
- Engage children in dialogue.



The UN Convention on the rights of the child

ARTICLE 12: You have the

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



**right to
an opinion
and for it to be
listened to
and
taken
seriously.**

Article 23

(Children with disabilities)



Children who have any kind of disability have the right to special care and support, as well as all the rights in the Convention, so that they can live full and independent lives.

The research approach

- Qualitative descriptive approach
- Narrative inquiry
- BERA ethical guidelines

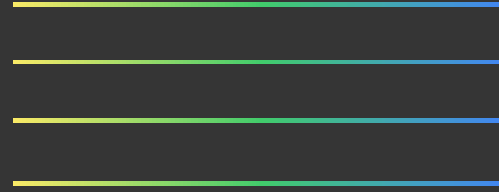


Participatory child-friendly methods

- Art and Drawing
- Role Play and Puppetry
- Informal Chats
- Photo/Video Diaries
- Clark's Mosaic Approach



Rethinking the role of Adults



Adults should:

- See themselves as co-constructors of knowledge.
- Empowered instead of making anxious



Conclusion

- Children are active, thoughtful, and emotionally aware.
- Ignoring their voices can cause psychological harm, especially during crises.
- Listening is not enough; it must lead to **action**.
- And above all, respecting children's rights is not optional; it is our responsibility.





Thank you