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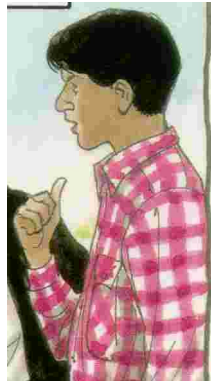
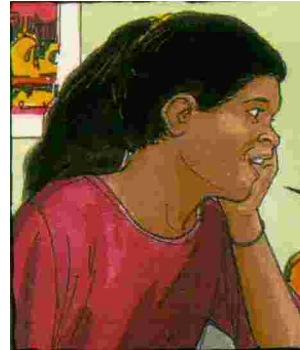
# Researching sensitive topics with children: Methodological issues and dilemmas

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# CONTENT

- Definitions
- Consent
- Methodologies
- Practical considerations



# SENSITIVE TOPICS



- Children`s understanding of infertility
- Children`s experience of palliative care provision

sex?!

Death?!

Cancer?!

School Governors

Teachers Ethics Committees

Parents

Local Education Authority

Health Trust

# AIMS

- To explore children`s knowledge and understanding of infertility and its implications
- To inform the development of appropriate psychosocial interventions
- To inform the current debate about the ethical implications of fertility preservation in childhood



# CONCERNS

- “Is the final year of primary school the right time to raise infertility in the minds of our children?”
- “Don`t they have enough to cope with as it is, without worrying about whether or not they may be infertile?”
- “How will parents be informed and involved, are we not just inviting trouble?”
- “Sex education is enough of a `hot potato` as it is, this venture could just complicate matters further.”
- “Are we not talking about just a few children & wouldn`t their concerns..be better dealt with specifically?”

# MISSION STATEMENT

- In the course of this research we wish to explore only what children know now. We will not introduce any new knowledge to children. Our overriding aim is that the research should be child-led, in line with our policy of research *with*, rather than *on* children

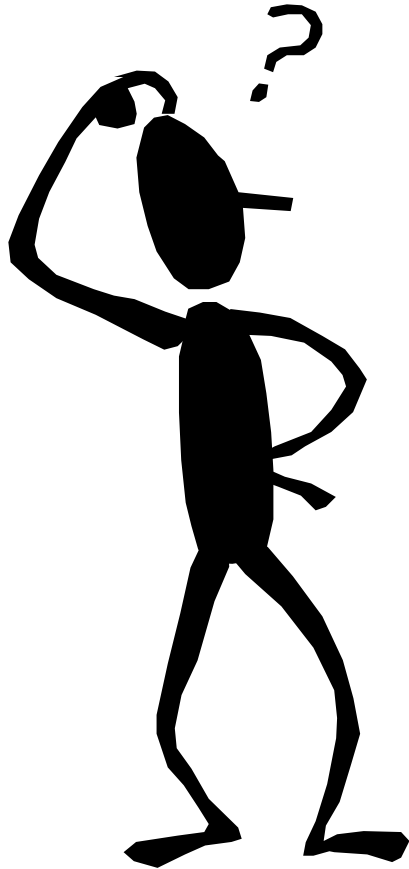
# WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

- What are children's priorities for when they are grown-up?
- Does 'having children' appear on their agenda at different ages?

# WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

- Are children aware that some people can't have children?
- Do they have any knowledge of possible causes and treatments?
- Sources of above knowledge?

# METHODS



- Age appropriate
- Child led
- Pluralistic
- Pilot study

# INTERVIEWS

- Group / Individual
- Linguistic skills
- Open / closed questions
- Non-verbal methods

# QUESTIONNAIRES

- Linguistic skills
- Written skills
- Design & layout

# SUMMARY

- Variety

= Triangulation

Sustaining interest



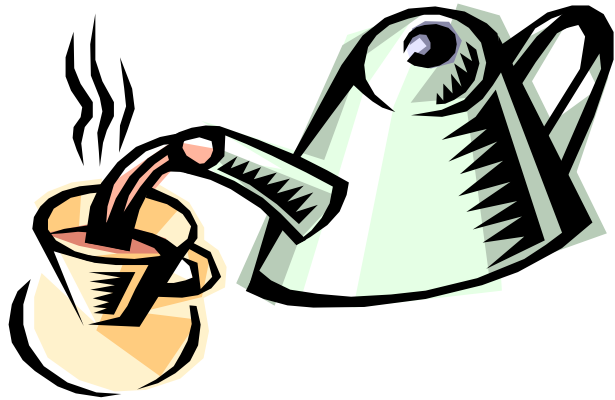
# PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Building rapport
- Informed participation
- Confidentiality
- Location & timing
- Contamination

# PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Abstract - concrete
- Power
- Recording
- Distress
- Endings

# CONCLUSION



- Read the literature
- Consult with colleagues
- Allow plenty of time