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Children and Juveniles in the Counseling Process:  
An Approach on Participation, Involvement and Qualification

## Who's got the say? Experiences and Agency in Stories of Traumatized Children

**Making the Invisible Visible – The relationship  
between knowledge and power and how it is  
made visible in research and practice**

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## Abstract

Children traumatized due to domestic violence are part of our societal reality. So far children had to take the back seat behind their mothers and the harm done to them. But these things that are happening “privately” are of a political significance: On behalf of children's rights, justice for children and equality to adults, it is about “to give children a voice (back)”. Another aim is to enable subject-based and children related research and politics and not to see children (as in previous programs) as educational and care objects only. All this involves a critical assessment of the power balances between adults and children, and based on the approaches of “narrative practice” we aim at creating links between theory, practice and research and methodology. In detail, we aim a implementing the concepts of narrative practice based on an approach on appreciation.

**Background**

Qualitative research in the context of family violence, new childhood research and children's rights.

**Problem**

Denying the children's perspective in child protection, pathologizing and reductionism in victim reduced discourse

**Research question(s)**

How can we create interventions based on appreciative and supportive view and communication? How can we educate the professionals for reflexive practice in the field of child protection?

**Methods**

Narrative Interviews with children and conversational analyses based on professionals-child interaction.

**Results, conclusions and implications**

The research shows how children create agency and how important it is to appreciate the children's construction of their reality in the professional interaction. Furthermore the research shows how important it is to make research *with* children to fulfill the challenges of children's right in the field of child protection and how important it is for a democratic child protection.

## Key Points

1. How children in the field of family violence are seen and reduced in disorder categories, or their own experiences are neglected
2. Methodological discussion childhood research:  
Assuming the perspective of children: How do children perceive and cope with domestic violence?
3. Making visible by focusing on agency discourse vs. trauma/victim discourse (from deficiency to empowerment)
4. Away from just talking “**about**” children to talking **with** them in a participative structured dialogue