Children's Perspectives Section

Welcome to our child-centered space within the International Critical Childhood Policy Studies Journal. As a community, we have been reflecting on the need for children's voices and perspectives within the journal, and we are collaborating to create a permanent space in which children can speak out, speak back, and lead with their own ideas and artistry. One of the goals of RECE is to honor children's realities and perspectives. As such, we invite you to consider questions posed to children such as:

- What do you want teachers/educators to know about school/preschool/child care? (What do we not know?)
- What do you want adults to know about being a kid? What does it mean to be a kid?
- What do you like most about school/Preschool/Child care?
- What would you like to change?
- What feels fair about the world? What does not feel fair to you?
- What does it mean for someone to be a good teacher? What do good teachers do?
- What does a good classroom look like for you? What would make you feel good in a classroom? What doesn't feel good in a classroom?

We accept submissions in English, Spanish, and French and are open to submissions in whatever language is comfortable for the child/children.

The goal of the Child Perspectives Section is to create an authentic, child-centered space. We are guided by traditions of the Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education (RECE) movement which aims to center children's voices and work. We aim to have this section be a consistent part of the journal to enable readers to learn from the perspectives of children.

Possibilities for Submission:

- Stories
- Poetry
- Artwork
- Short essays (Please connect with editors about length)
- Film/movies (not including children's faces)
- Photography (including photos of their work)

Expectations for Submission:

- A short (250 word or less) description of the children's work being shared, materials used, how it was created, and perspectives the children wanted to share.
- A selection of children's work - this might be several pieces from one or two children, or a collection of work from a larger group.
- An artist's bio of the child or children. Use this space to tell us about the child's ideas, their artistic process, their thinking about their work, anything they would like to share about their ideas.
- Ability to affirmatively share that consent and assent was obtained from the appropriate organizations and people.

This is a lively, evolving space, so be creative and share your ideas with us! There are no precise parameters for the "right" submission. We are really looking for the many ways the voices of children can become an active part of this academic community and inform our practice.

For more information or if you would like to discuss ideas, please contact the editors: Dana Frantz Bentley, dbentley@bbns.org; Kerry-Ann Escayg, kescayg@unomaha.edu; Oona Fontanella-Nothom, ofontanellanothom@csudh.edu.

Meet the Editors:

We are a group of educators from different places, backgrounds, and experiences who all love working in and with the voices of children.

Dana Frantz Bentley

Hello everyone, and welcome to Children's Perspectives! I am a teacher/scholar, which means I am a teacher working with children every day and thinking about our work together through stories and narratives. I have been a teacher for over twenty-five years, and currently teach Prekindergarten in Cambridge, Massachusetts in the U.S. I love learning with kids, thinking with kids, and playing with kids every single day. When I am not at school, I love running, reading, cooking, and spending time with my three children.

Dr. Kerry-Ann Escayg

Hi everyone, I am an associate professor of early childhood education at the University of Nebraska Omaha. I love writing, reading, and helping teachers to create classrooms which are safe, caring, and nurturing for Black children. That is a nice way of saying… I love justice! Although I spend a lot of time teaching and writing, I enjoy going to the beach, eating Caribbean food, singing, dancing, and reading novels from the 19th century. I also think children have such great ideas and adults need to listen to them! I look forward to reading your work!

Dr. Oona Fontanella-Nothom

Hi there! I am Associate Professor of Child Development at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Before becoming a college professor, I was a preschool teacher and I loved teaching and learning with kids and miss it! I am so glad to be working on this section of the journal because I get to learn from kids' ideas, questions, and creativity. I work to support current and future teachers to learn how to make sure they provide kids with opportunities to play and learn about social justice. When I'm not working, I like to go to soccer/futbol games, travel, and spend time with my family. Thanks for sharing your perspectives with us!



Oona, now



Oona, age 4



Kerry-Ann, now



Kerry-Ann, age 7



Dana, now



Dana, age 8