Photo Voice

echoes Montessori

Photo Voice is a research method that empowers children to use photography and videography to capture their own experiences. We use Photo Voice as a tool to ensure that the child's perspective is directly and freely shared, without interference from adult interpretation or analysis.

Our use of Photo Voice is based on the following guiding principles:

Empower children as active agents

The underlying philosophy of Photo Voice is to ensure that children are active participants, not passive subjects. They are empowered to use Photo Voice to 'speak for themselves'.

Promote inclusion and equity

Our Photo Voice project is structured and scaffolded to enable participation from as many members of our community as possible, regardless of age or ability.

Encourage development and improvement

The process and the products of the Photo Voice project help to show where our strengths and challenges sit, and so they are key drivers in our commitment to continuous improvement.

Provoke critical reflection

The child's point of view is presented without adult interference, but it does spark adult interpretation as the images and recordings form the basis of dialogue and analysis.

Reach policy-makers, stakeholders and the community

We are committed to sharing our Photo Voice through research, publication and promotion, with the aim of the child's perspective influencing decision-making.

Allow for self-determination

Photo Voice acts as one of the tools that children use to express their priorities for the future stages of our intergenerational work, to ensure that they determine their own direction.

Children use cameras and/or tablets to record their images, videos and voices. These tools are selected for safety and efficacy.

To protect the privacy and dignity of all participants, photos are checked to ensure each individual captured has given consent and is represented respectfully.

Children are given guidance in the use of the tools, but are not instructed in who or what to capture, or how to approach, frame or angle the shot.