It’s not enough to be ‘participatory’, the process is just as important as the technique.

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The Study

- **Aim:** to explore the health and well-being related perceptions and experiences of school-aged children and their families, who live in areas of urban disadvantage.

- **Objectives:**
  - To explore what ‘family’ means to school-aged children and their family.
  - To enquire into what ‘health’ and ‘well-being’ mean to school-aged children and their family who live in areas of urban disadvantage.
  - To explore health related views and opinions of school-aged children and their family who live in areas of urban disadvantage.
  - To facilitate school-aged children and their family to detail how they maintain their health and well-being.
Research with children

- Research with children requires creativity, not only on the part of the researcher but also on the data collection methods adopted for the study.

- Collecting data from children is not ‘child’s play’ but rather a challenging task which requires thoughtful design on the part of the researcher (Mayaba and Wood 2015).
Data Collection Methods

- Interviews with children in the home
- Drawing activities
  - Drawing 1: ‘Spider Diagram’ (genogram)
  - Drawing 2: ‘Time Pie’
  - Drawing 3: ‘My Family’
Researchers are obliged to ensure that children are aware of their role within a research study and that they understand the researcher's expectations of them (Livesley and Long 2012)

The use of this cartoon contributed towards the study’s trustworthiness and ensured that each child was treated fairly.
The use of creativity by the researcher has been found to significantly enhance the qualitative research interview with child participants (Spratling, Coke and Minick 2012).
The use of participatory techniques for interviews with children is popular however; their success is dependent on the process adopted for the technique rather than the technique alone.

The study protocol helped to maintain the study's credibility and dependability.
Interview toolkit: paper and marker selection

- This small gesture facilitated choice and empowerment for the child during the interview process.
The Lundy Model of Child Participation (Lundy 2007)
Conclusion

- Creative participatory techniques are very useful when conducting research with children however the process used to employ such techniques is just as important as the techniques themselves.

