

Transcript

One minute methods – case studies

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Case studies can provide us with rich long-term biographical information about children's lives. They have been used to explore the influence of rare historical events, unusual talents, or uncommon conditions on child development. Even though case studies usually focus on a single child, their results can sometimes challenge whole theories. For example, if a single child has functioning short-term memory but has no long-term memory, it undermines the idea that memory is just one thing. Darwin and Piaget both studied their own children's development over many years. The insights they gained helped them generate new theories of development, that others later tested with larger groups of children. If we want to explore something that is rare, or we want a detailed portrait of children's lives, then a case study offers a good approach.