

Transcript

One minute methods – cross sectional

One minute methods – cross sectional.

To understand how children adapt, change, and grow, we need to compare children at different ages. To make those comparisons, researchers tend to rely on two main ways of structuring their research. In so-called cross-sectional designs, researchers observe different children at different ages, and make comparisons between the age groups. For example, a researcher might measure the attitudes of 4-year-olds, 6-year-olds, and 8-year-olds to their friends. This provides a snapshot of how different children think at different ages. In so-called longitudinal designs, researchers repeatedly measure the same children as they grow up. For example, a researcher might measure the attitudes of a group of 4-year-olds, and then 2 years later test the same children again, and then again 2 years after that. Comparing different children at the same time, or the same children at different times, tells us subtly different things about development, and researchers need to choose the design that best fits their research questions.