

Transcript

One minute methods – sampling

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Researchers study how children think, behave, change and adapt. Often they are looking for the simplest way to explain as much of child development as possible and to describe something that is true for as many children as possible. However, researchers are not able to study all children, just some of them. That means they sometimes make generalisations from smaller groups to bigger groups. This wouldn't be a problem if all children were the same. If they were the same, then something true of one child would be true of all children. But there are of course big individual differences between children in their age, family circumstances, abilities and culture, which means generalisations need to be made with care. On the characteristics they think are important, researchers try to make sure the group they study is representative of the group they are making generalisations about.