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Children should be regarded as active participants whose voices need to be heard, concludes four new reports

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Children should be regarded as active participants whose voices need to be heard, concludes four new reports published today.

The reports, which are part of The Primary Review, raise important questions about childhood today for teachers, children's services and the Government. They pay special attention to children's lives outside of school, the relationship between school and home, and the impact of poverty.

The reports argue that those involved in young children's education should respect childhood, listen carefully to children's views, understand children's lives outside school, and give children and families time and space to pursue activities other than school work.

The reports also conclude that there is still a high incidence of childhood poverty. And that this has a 'significant impact' on the health, wellbeing and education of large numbers of children.

The reports are:

- *Children's Lives Outside School and their Educational Impact*, by Berry Mayall (Primary Review Research Survey 8/1)
- *Parenting, Caring and Educating*, by Yolande Muschamp, Felicity Wikeley, Tess Ridge and Maria Balarin (Primary Review Research Survey 7/1)
- *Primary Schools and Other Agencies*, by Ian Barron, Rachel Holmes, Maggie MacLure and Katherine Runswick-Cole (Primary Review Research Survey 8/2)
- *Children and their Primary Schools: children's voices*, by Carol Robinson and Michael Fielding (Primary Review Research Survey 5/3).

[Read the full reports.](#)

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