THE ART OF DATA COLLECTION

Katarina Karlsson  
Paediatric nurse. Doctoral student. School of Health sciences Borås/School of Health sciences Jönköping  
katarina.karlsson@hb.se

Karin Enskär  
Professor and supervisor. School of Health sciences Jönköping

Lotta Englund & Ingela Rydström  
Co-supervisor, lecturer and co-author. School of Health sciences Borås

INTRODUCTION
A procedure is by definition children’s experience’s related to an investigation or an action that children have to undergo to make diagnoses, administer treatment and to follow the development of given treatment.

METHOD
The term procedure is used without defining in advance whether the procedure will lead to pain, distress or any other discomfort because the approach is from a reflective life-world perspective as described by Dahlberg and co-authors. The methods used for data gathering are observation and video recording, interviewing and field notes.

RESULT
Participant observation is a good way to find out how young children feel about procedures and can be aided by the use of video recording.

When interviewing children it is important to create a relationship that is based on the child’s confidence. Young children need concrete materials to help them express experiences and almost every child wants to play with stuffed animals and proper medical equipment, during the interview.

When interviewing young children it can be difficult to use general questions as these children need more specific questions. If the procedures have been experienced as scary for the child it can be hard for the child to answer questions about it.

In addition the researcher can make notes whenever something special has occurred during the procedure or the interview to help the researcher remember important events.

DISCUSSION
An interview situation can be quite “chaotic” and unpredictable, as the parents are present, as well as siblings or other relatives or friends. In this type of data collection different challenges can occur, such as to remember bringing all equipment and to get the equipment to work properly. Additional challenges arise when placing the video recorder, computer and voice recorder so they won’t bother the child during the procedure or interview. Being prepared for such challenges increases the possibilities of capturing the children’s own narratives.

When interviewing young children it can be difficult to use general questions as these children need more specific questions. If the procedures have been experienced as scary for the child it can be hard for the child to answer questions about it.

In addition the researcher can make notes whenever something special has occurred during the procedure or the interview to help the researcher remember important events.

AIM
The topic of this poster presentation is about collecting data within healthcare settings when children between 3-7 years of age undergo procedures which include the use of a sharp object, i.e. some form of needle procedure.

CONCLUSION
A researcher has to be aware of the risk that using highly technical equipment can shift focus from the child and the child’s thoughts may “disappear” in all the techniques. Collecting data can be likened to an art form, where all participants use their senses and where the child, the researcher and the technical equipment intertwine so that the child’s stories can be heard.