

Our project about children and gambling

We want to do a project to better understand what kids know about gambling. Before starting our project, we wanted to see what research has already been done on this topic. So we looked at all the existing research on the topic and tried to understand:

1. How do researchers think about children in gambling research?
2. How do researchers include children's own opinions in their projects?
3. How do researchers think kids learn about gambling (and if they gamble, what types of gambling are they trying)?
4. Is there a new way to include children in gambling research so that their views and experiences are better understood?

THE TEAM

We have four people working on this project. Anne Graham is an expert in including kids in research. Nerilee Hing is an expert in understanding gambling and Kate Neale knows a lot about how children understand things like social media, and marketing. Julia Truscott helped us by finding all the research already done and working out the answers to our questions. She also knows a lot about research that involves children.

WHAT WE FOUND OUT

By looking at lots of other projects, we found out that when researchers are thinking about children and gambling, they are mostly thinking about how it might harm children. They also think about how their families' gambling habits might be bad for kids too.

We also found that research focuses on how certain people might be more at-risk of having problems with gambling. It usually says these are just a few people called "problem-gamblers". Some newer research though is saying that because there are many gambling ads on tv or shown when people play apps, that having a go at gambling is becoming more normal. Because of this, more people likely to try gambling and this might include kids who see lots of people gamble and therefore want to have a go themselves.

When it came to finding out all this information, it seems researchers sometimes ask kids themselves, and sometimes ask adults for their opinions about kids and gambling. When kids are asked directly, usually they are asked to fill out a form. Not many studies sit down and ask kids questions, like in a conversation. Therefore, kids don't really have an opportunity to tell us everything they know about gambling, just what we have asked them.

HOW WE WILL USE THIS INFORMATION

Now we know more about how other research about kids and gambling has been done, we can design our own project. We have decided that the best way to find out about kids own experiences with gambling is to ask them directly. Therefore, we think it is important that our next project (and projects other people may want to do), should be guided by the following:

- If we want to know something about children's lives, we should ask kids directly.
- Children are important and capable members of our community and so we should think about how they influence and participate in that community. Therefore, we should think about how they experience gambling.
- If gambling is being seen in lots of different places such as on tv, on websites and in games online, we should try to understand how affects kids' awareness of it (and whether it makes them want to try gambling more).

GETTING INTO CONTACT WITH US

If you would like to know more about this project, please call Kate on 6620 3802 or email her at: kate.neale@scu.edu.au.

If you want to talk to someone about any problems you are having because of gambling, please call Kids Helpline (for free):

The number to call is: 1800 55 1800