Exploring Modern Pre-schoolers’ Understanding of Gender

A great deal of research was undertaken in the 1960s and 1970s to understand children's concept of gender, and how gender affected the ways that children played. Since that time, attitudes about gender and how gender influences behaviour, careers etc., within our society have changed. We do not know how these changes have affected parent's notions of child rearing, children's notions of gender, or children's playing styles.

We invite parents of 3, 4 & 5 year old children to participate in a survey. Parents of 3, 4 or 5 year old children are invited to complete a brief survey (in hard copy or online). The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete, and the online version can be opened via the following link:

http://www.deakin.edu.au/psychology/research/daviddemmer/

We invite 3, 4 & 5 year old children to participate in an interview. Parents who have completed the survey above may also consent for their child to participate in a brief interview about 'being a girl' or 'being a boy'. The interview takes approximately 15-20 minutes, and can be conducted at appointed times at convenient locations to suit the family.

Please note that if a parent does not wish for their child to be interviewed, the parent can still complete the online survey section of this research – it is not a prerequisite that both the parent and child participate in this research.

If you would like more information about our research, please contact:

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This project has approval of Deakin University Human Research Ethics Committee (2013-032)