The Anthropology of Children Working Group (based at VU University, Amsterdam) brings together academics and practitioners engaged in research and work with children. Through monthly seminars, the Working Group promotes child-oriented theory, methodology, and research ethics. Besides, it serves as a platform for (interdisciplinary) academic research and it enhances dialogue with practitioners through joint research projects, publications and conferences.

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Current children’s program planning and evaluation methodologies follow a formal logic that does not always cohere with children’s life experience. Even qualitative tools, which are meant to solicit in-depth responses, are now designed to produce structured, usable responses from children quickly. Anthropological investigations have the potential to improve program design by taking into account the social reality in which programs are often implemented, as well as by providing richer research about how programs actually relate to what children know and how they behave.