

## Ethics & Medical Research

---

### Protection & Participation of Children in Research

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

#### Readings

- Alan Fleischman & Lauren Collogan, "Research With Children", pp. 446–460.

#### Questions

1. According to Fleischman and Collogan, what various events involving research with children led to the recognition of the need for regulations concerning such research? How exactly did the various attempts at regulations (the Nuremberg Code, Declaration of Helsinki, and Common Rule) intend to respond to the ethical considerations raised by those events? Do you believe they adequately did so?
2. Fleischman and Collogan have a brief aside on the debate between Paul Ramsey and Richard McCormick concerning the permissibility of research on children. What is the crux of this debate, and what arguments did each theologian present to justify his respective position? While history seems on the side of McCormick, do you find his argument compelling?
3. More recently, starting in the late 1990's, there has been a shift towards more children participating in research. What caused the shift, and how have regulations subsequently been modified? Does all this run the risk of validating Ramsey's concerns with research on children, or do the regulatory protections of children provide sufficient protection?
4. Why do adolescents, neonates, and disadvantaged children represent special cases? What sort of protections are appropriate to each?