THE ART OF DATA COLLECTION
– Children’s experience of needle procedures

Traditionally, qualitative research on children has been from an adult perspective. The focus of this study is from a life-world perspective and the goal is to capture the essence of the child’s experience – from their own point of view.

My study focuses on how preschool children experience and deal with procedures in health care settings. Procedures are what we in health care do to the child to establish diagnosis and implement treatment. Previous research shows that these procedures can cause the child feelings of worry, anxiety and pain. Children are generally afraid of sharp objects and needles are strongly associated with negative feelings. Therefore my research based on needle procedures.

The data collection consists of video recording, participant observation and interviews. In participant observation the researcher gathers the informant’s experiences and makes an interpretation. Participant observation may be an appropriate data collection method in studies with children as it can be complicated to carry out an interview or receive written statements. Interviewing children is not easy; it requires flexibility and creativity on the part of the researcher.

My presentation for this conference focuses on how I have collected data by using video recording, participant observation and interviews. I will discuss my approach and the risk of experiencing feelings of vulnerability during video recording. I will also present various questions that have arisen and some preliminary results.