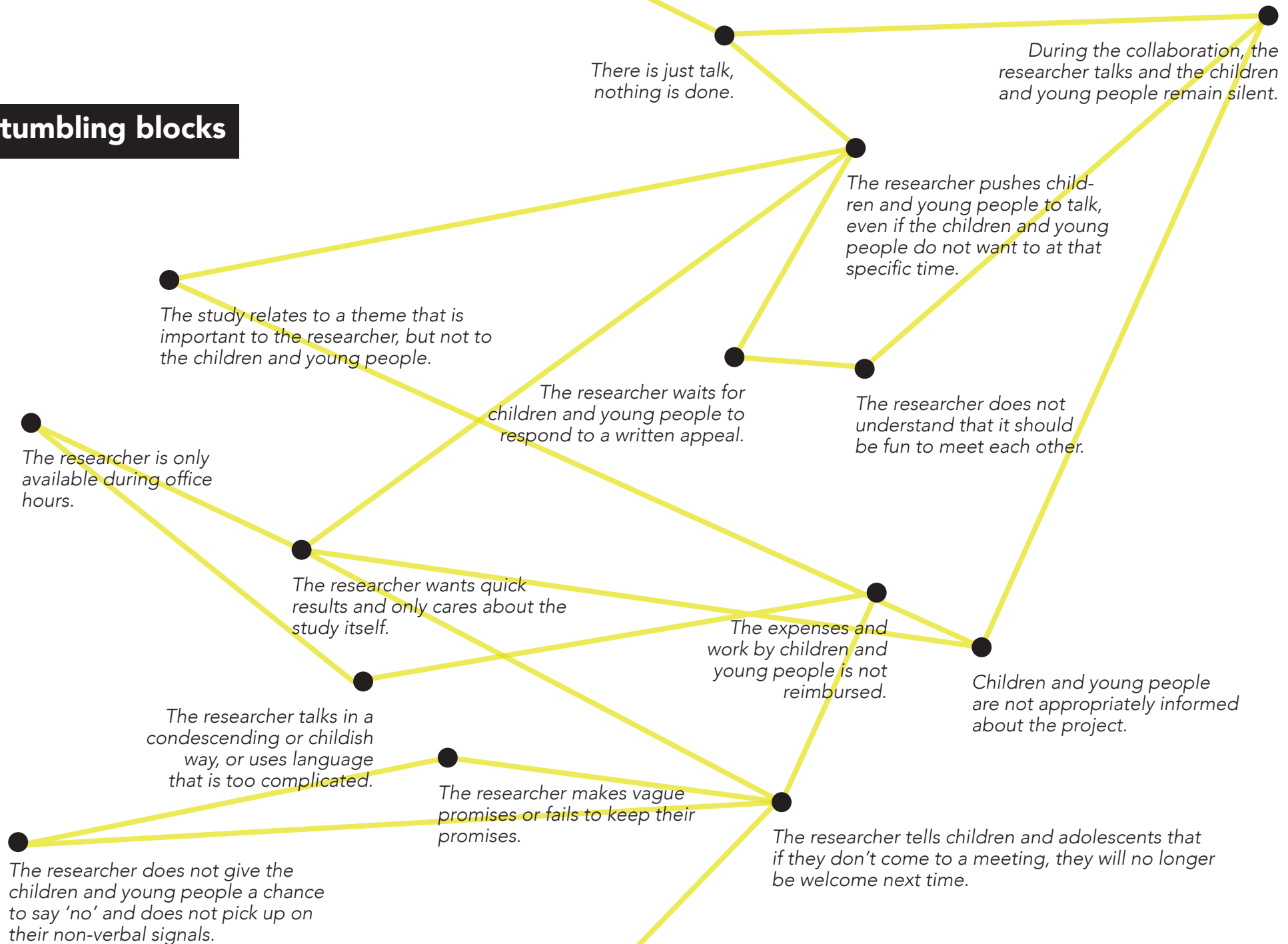




International Guidelines for children, young people and researchers who want to collaborate in research

- 1 Children, young people and researchers work together on an equal footing.
- 2 The goal of the collaboration is to amplify the influence of children and young people, and to stimulate action and change.
- 3 The researcher knows how to work with children and young people and feels confident in showing their own vulnerability.
- 4 The researcher is authentic in the way they present themselves to the children and young people.
- 5 The researcher is familiar/engaged with the participatory approaches, history, theory, values, and quality criteria.
- 6 Children and young people whose voices are not heard including those considered living in vulnerable circumstances are actively sought out and invited to participate in the study.
- 7 The study process is accessible, welcoming and safe for everyone.
- 8 The collaboration starts by really getting to know each other by facilitating everyone towards feeling comfortable working together.
- 9 The participants discover how best to work together and explore together which themes are important.
- 10 Children, young people, and researchers together discuss and decide the appropriate form of recognition.
- 11 The researcher, in collaboration with children and young people, ensures that everyone can participate safely and in their own way.
- 12 The researcher ensures that any wishes, concerns and/or limitations of the children and young people are addressed in a balanced way that suits all the participants needs.
- 13 The researcher acts to maximise the time and space available to explore the subject with children and young people, allowing them to develop their own ideas and try them out.
- 14 The results of the study are not predetermined.
- 15 The process and results of the research project are critically evaluated together with children and young people.
- 16 Children and young people have a say in what results are shared, and how, where and when the results are made public.
- 17 The diverse knowledge, experience and contribution of children and young people are clearly visible in the end products.

Stumbling blocks



How were these guidelines created?

These guidelines were initiated and developed in response to the growing demand to engage children and young people in research, with the aim of improving its quality and to prevent tokenism. The first set of 10 principles was developed by Dutch researchers in 2013 (Dedding, Jurrius, Moonen and Rutjes) and published in a chapter with members of Kids in action (Gibbs et al., 2018).

In 2022, the Dutch Learning Network for Youth Participation in Research decided to revise these guidelines, and to include children and young people in the process. This led to new guidelines—existing of 16 more detailed and partially new recommendations—particularly on making decision together with children and youth, such as how to recognize their participation.

In 2023, we discussed and revised these new Dutch guidelines with the international Kids in Action network of the ICPHR for global validation and application. This took place during five online sessions and one in-person workshop at the Annual Working Meeting of the ICPHR in Limerick (June 2023). We envision these guidelines as a living document, with ongoing discussions on their content and how to reflexively apply these guidelines into diverse contexts and practices worldwide, with children, young people and researchers. And of course, with the commitment to continuously improving these guidelines accordingly.

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www.icphr.org

www.schoolforparticipation.nl

Funding:

Dutch ZonMw program 'Wat werkt voor de jeugd'
(what works for youth)



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