

Multinational Qualitative Study

»Children's Understanding of Well-being – Global and Local Contexts«



Ashley



Liz

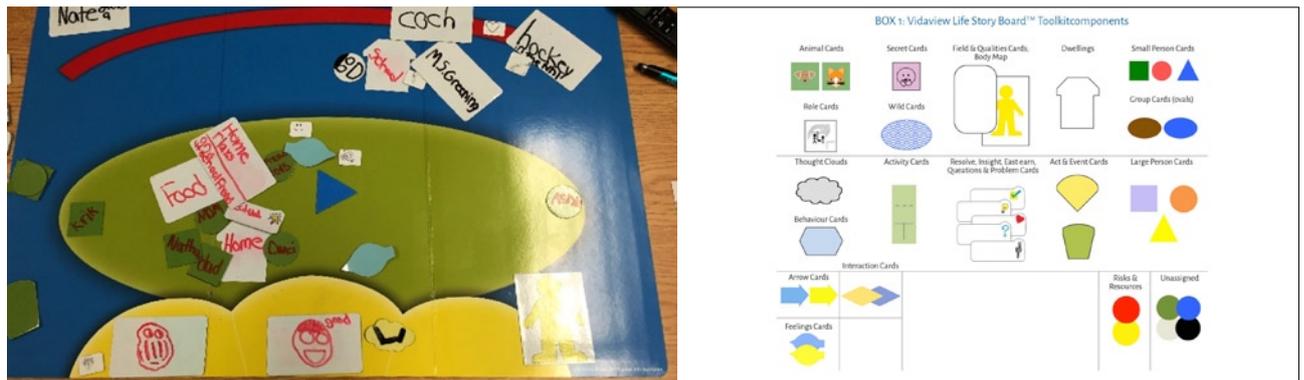
Hello from Canada!

My name is Ashley (Stewart-Tufescu), and I'm Elizabeth (Huyhn). Nice to meet you. We belong to a research team that is interested in understanding how children think and feel about their lives. To do this we work closely with the experts-that's you, and children and youth just like you from Canada, and all over the world.

We work at Red River College with our colleague Janet (Jamieson), and the University of Manitoba with Rob (Chase) and Javier (Mignone) in the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Winnipeg is right in the centre of Canada, in the province of Manitoba. It's a multi-cultural city and home to over 700,000 people, many whom are newcomers and refugees. Sometimes Winnipeg is called »Winterpeg« because it can be very cold and snowy in the winter, but the summers are hot and beautiful. Here is a map of Canada-see if you can spot Winnipeg. And here's a picture of Winnipeg, in the winter, so you get an idea of where we live, work and play.



Speaking of play, that is the most important part of our job. Children told us that the best way to ask them about their lives is to play and have fun with them. So we did just that! Rob developed a game called the Life Story Board™. The game is a fun way to describe your life, and all the important, and sometimes difficult things you may experience in your home, school, and community. It also helps you describe how you spend time with your friends, and how you feel about yourself. Here is a picture of a completed storyboard, and some examples of the pieces from the game:



We played the game with over 20 children between 8 and 12 years old from child care centres in all areas of the city. We hung out with children, played with the Life Story Board™, and listened as children described their lives. Many children talked about the importance of being heard by their teachers and parents, the meaning of true friendship, and bullying. At the end of the session each child took a picture of their storyboard as a keepsake. Here are a few examples of what children thought of when talking about their lives and playing with the Life Story Board™.

»Well like if you can't like explain something then you could just like take one these [magnets] and draw it and put it on. And there's like everything that you would need to talk about there's there so it's easy to just like write something down and put it on.«

»I think it was really good, so I can realise how my life is going. Because sometimes I don't really realise what I'm doing, you know, another day, but when I put this over here I realise how good my life is. We'd probably talk about the same things but it will be, kind of, harder to remember, because I can always look here and then ... it's like oh, and then about this. Yeah, it was fun. It was nice to have.«

We have learned so many interesting and important things we never would have known about without working with children just like you. These experiences will be shared with children, parents, teachers, child-serving professionals and decision-makers here in Canada and beyond. The goal is to create environments that better support children, and honour children's rights to meaningful participation. Thank you to all the children, parents and child care staff who were so eager to talk with us, taught us many important lessons, and reminded us to play and have fun!