



Charles Sturt
University

IN
SUPPORT
OF

UN75
2020 AND BEYOND

SHAPING
OUR
FUTURE
TOGETHER

A group of diverse children are running happily across a grassy field with large trees in the background. The children are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual summer clothing. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day outdoors.

Children's Communication Matters

Regardless of Frontiers (Article 19)

Response to the United Nations' call for views of youth-led and youth-focused organizations and institutions on the future of human rights for the development of the Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration.

Early Childhood Interdisciplinary Research Group (ECIR)

→ earlychildhoodresearch.csu.domains

Children's Communication Matters Regardless of Frontiers (Article 19)

Children's right to communicate is promoted by the Early Childhood Interdisciplinary Research Group (ECIR) at Charles Sturt University in Australia.

As part of our recent [Early Childhood Voices conference](#) we asked children across the world to draw themselves talking to someone.

Their drawings are displayed in four [Children Draw Talking Global Online Galleries](#). We listened to 200 hundred children (2-12 years) from 20+ countries.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

(Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations, 1948)

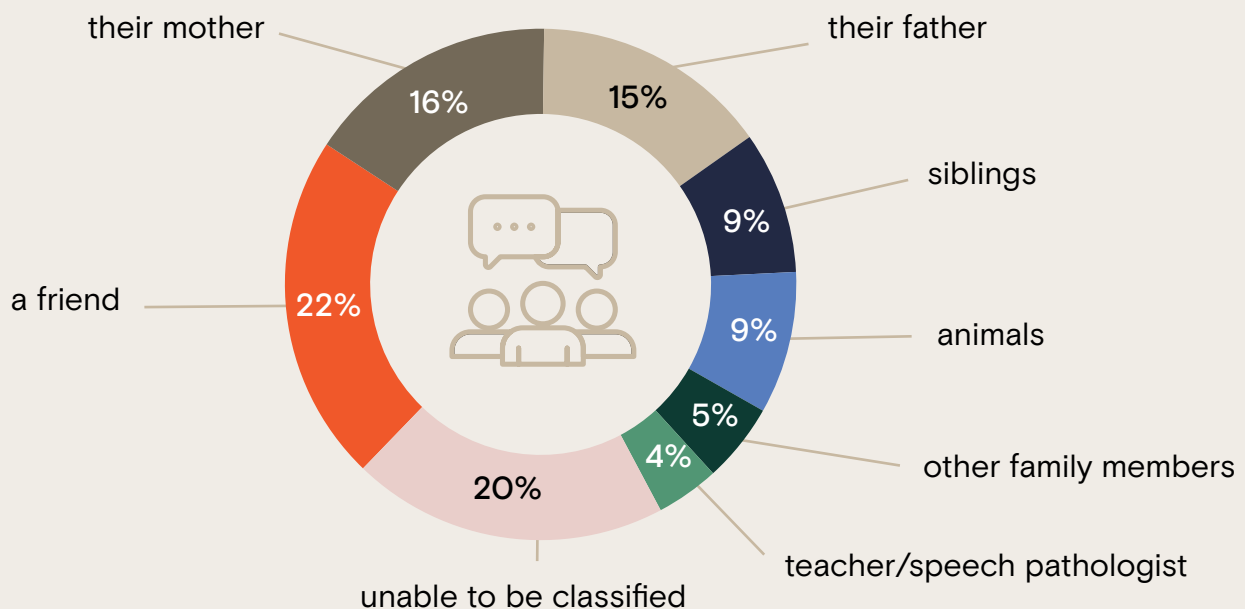


Feelings about talking

The majority of children felt happy about talking.



The children drew themselves talking to:



28.5% of parents had concerns about how their child talked or made speech sounds

(similar to the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, McLeod & Harrison, 2009).



Australian advisors for the ECIR Children Draw Talking Project.
Photo included with permission.

Children provided

“recommendations to decision and policymakers, including ... the United Nations, and others, to advance human rights in the future”.

Grown-ups should listen. Children are smart, kind and important.

“Children are smart, and kind and we are young and can do things like playing and running. Grown-ups should listen to children because we are so important”

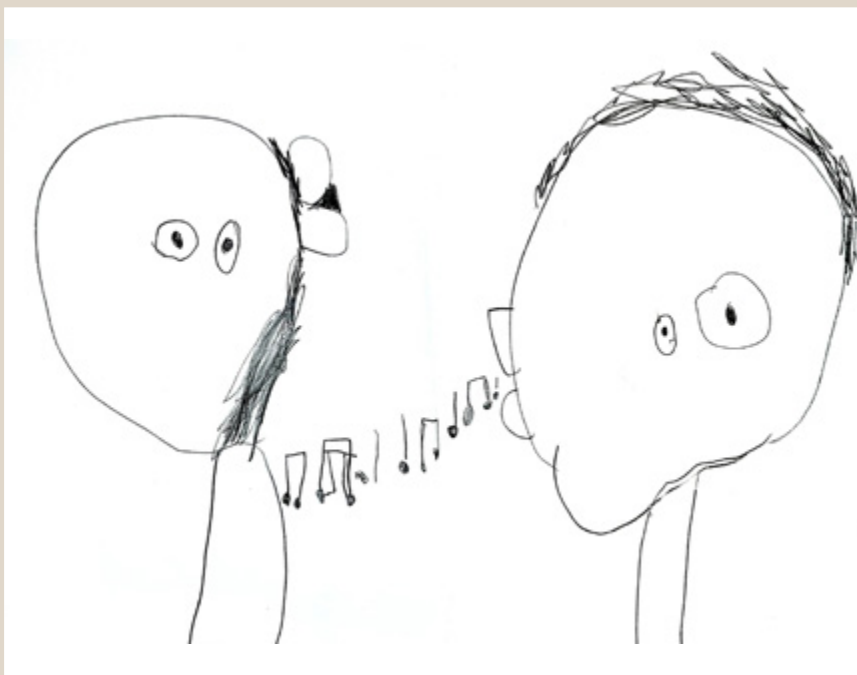
Olivia



6



Australia



“I am singing a song to my dad... I love you and want to sing to you. Your mouth is shut, listening to my song”

Elijah



5



United Kingdom



Mandarin, English,
Polish



“I am talking to grandad in the backyard of my house about ‘what did you do today?’ He said ‘I forgot.’”

Edwin



7



Australia



English

Maybe you will miss something if you only listen to adults

“Children should be listened to because we are kind and loving and you can’t only listen to grown-ups because maybe you will miss something”



Charlotte

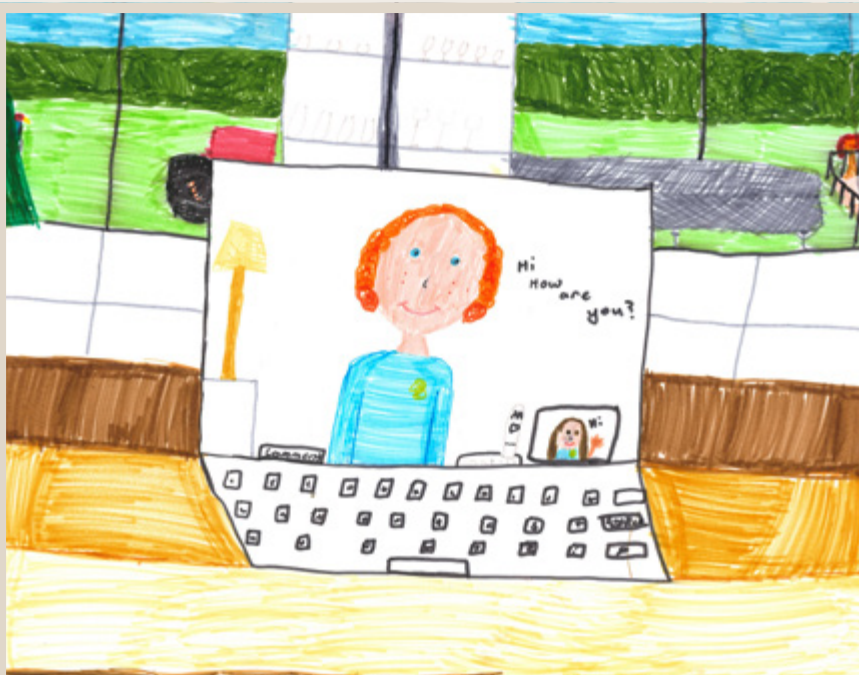
 8  Australia



“I am talking to another person about cultures”

Sangkamitra

 10  Australia
 Tamil, English, French



“Me and my friend are talking on Zoom. We are greeting each other then we’ll go into deeper conversation”

Elsie

 9  Australia
 English

Children want to share what they have achieved

“Children want to share what they have achieved at school and adults should listen because we matter and are important”

Roarke



11



Australia



“I am finally finished my homework”

Mei



9



Hong Kong, SAR China



Cantonese, English



“I am greeting my teacher. I want to be polite to my teacher”

Thao



7



Vietnam



Tamil, English, French

Children deserve to be heard. We are irreplaceable.

“Children want to be heard and adults should listen to children because they deserve to be heard. We know our [own] life better, we have imaginations, we care about the environment and we are the next generation so if you don't care for us it will be the end of mankind, gone, that's it. We are irreplaceable”

Jocelyn



9



Australia



“I am dancing with my friends at preschool. We are telling jokes. It makes me feel funny. We laugh!”

Layla



5



Australia



English



Ellie and I “are talking about our hobbies (singing and skating). She is the best friend ever.”

Melissa



8



United Kingdom



English, Sinhala



“Me and my neighbour friend are in the park... chatting and playing with each other about where to go to get books to read”

Ivy



8



Australia



Vietnamese, English



“Me and a friend are playing and talking at school at recess time.”

Esther



7



Canada



Jamaican Creole, English

Children want to tell the world their feelings

“Children want to tell the world their feelings. Grown-ups should listen to children because they are the next generation, and we know how to have fun and we are priceless”

Knox



9



Australia



“I am telling my parents ‘Today I am applauded by my teacher’. I feel happy 😊 because my parents always listen to my talking”

Gia



Vietnam



Vietnamese



“Lora and me are on the playground. We are talking about how we will go to the sea. I love Lora”

Lorena



6



Croatia



Croatian



“Lots of people say ‘pardon’ when I talk. It makes me feel 😞”

”

Lexi



12



Australia



English



“My brother and me are sticking tongues to each other. We are quarrelling over a chocolate candy which we cannot share. I love him and I love quarrelling with him”

”

Arman



4



Armenia



Armenian

Stuff is accomplished because children have an imagination

“Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein were children once before they were adults and that’s how stuff is accomplished when they were children and had an imagination, that’s how they come up with stuff, like people who make movies, and sing and make inventions all have an imagination from being children”

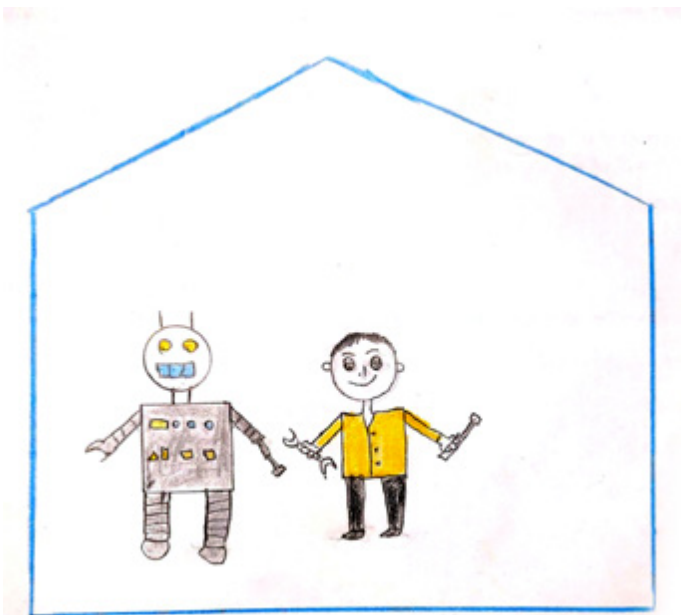
Roarke



11



Australia



“I am making a robot because in the future I want to become a robot maker”

Omid



7



Iran



Persian



“Me and my aunt are at a clothes store. I saw very cool clothes. I told my aunt I want the costume. She said it was too expensive”

Aki



7



Indonesia



Bahasa Indonesian



“Me and a model are in a fashion show. I praise the model as she is very beautiful. I want to be a model next time”

”

Teoh



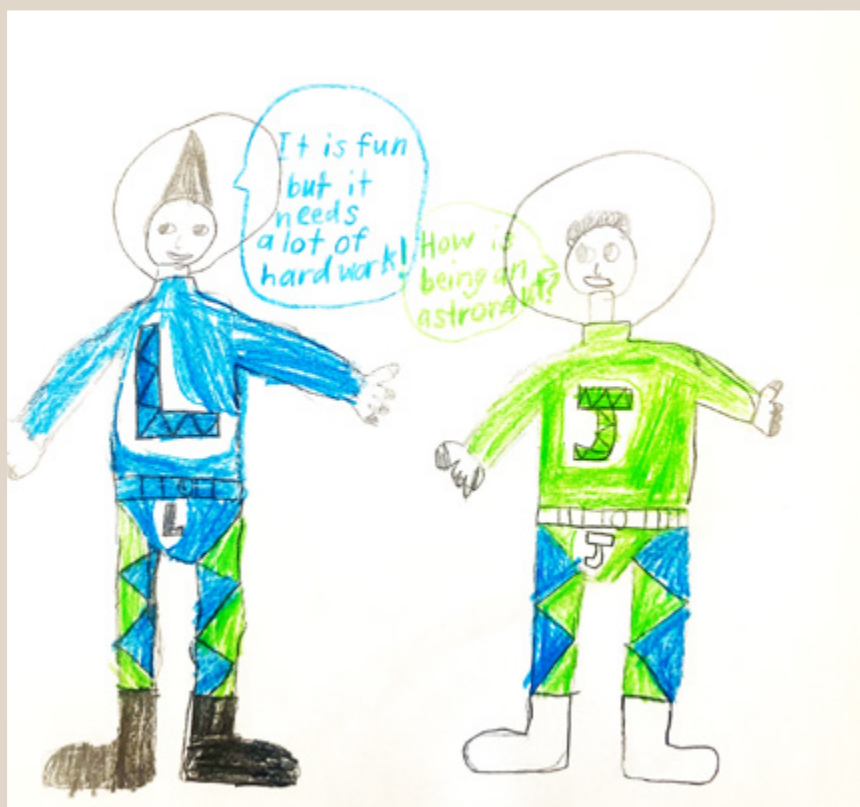
9



Malaysia



Mandarin



“My friend Jack and I are astronauts. Being an astronaut is fun but it needs a lot of hard work”

”

Lachlan



9



Australia



English

We love the world

“Everyone should be kind and generous and listen to children because it is kind to listen to children and we love the world”

Greta



6



Australia



“I love nature and little creatures. I’m inviting the spider up to the treehouse for some apple cake”

Tymon



8



Poland



Polish



“We drove to the Palace Museum to celebrate the birthday of my country. I am saying happy birthday to my country. I love you!”

Yuchen



6



China



Mandarin

Collaborators

Roarke (11)	Dr Carolyn Gregoric
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