

Guidance on One-on-one Data Collection in Research with Children

The IRB at Northern Illinois University has discussed best practices for researchers who plan on collecting data from underage participants using one-on-one data collection techniques (e.g., interviews, assessments).

Although there is no set policy on how to carry out these types of studies, the content below provides suggestions based on the IRB's best practices discussion. These practices protect both the researcher and the participants. Please contact ORCIS (researchcompliance@niu.edu) if you have any questions.

- If data collection is being carried out in a school/facility, find out if the school/facility has specific requirements. All researchers may be required to complete a background check.
- Additional considerations (highly recommended if possible):
 - Allow others (parents, teachers, etc.) to be present in the room
 - Require two adult researchers to be present during every data collection interaction
 - Conduct data collection in a room with a one-way mirror (to allow parents or teachers to observe).