



Thinking Children: The concept of 'child' from a philosophical perspective

Claire Cassidy

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Thinking Children investigates the concept of 'child' from a philosophical perspective. Its aim is to come to an acceptable definition of 'child', and it is anticipated that such a definition will impact on how those seen as children are perceived in society.

The author first explores the notions of personhood, self and identity, before reflecting on historical perspectives on childhood and the inclusion of children as active, participative, political and philosophical agents within society today.

Children and adults are placed differently in society, and through coming to an acceptable definition of 'child', this book seeks to determine whether such differential status is merited. *Thinking Children* proposes that we might consider children as *beings* and not *becomings*, and empower them to be active and participative citizens, since they are able and adept reasoners.

This book will be of interest to all students on Childhood Studies and Education Studies courses, as well as lecturers and researchers in the field.

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