

How does informed consent operate with a vulnerable contributor?

Dr Alison Clarke, University College London, Thomas Coram Research Unit

Duration of video clip: 1 minute and 6 seconds

I think in terms of thinking about informed consent, it's a question of different layers to that question. I think with somebody like Justine it's about watching her reaction to your presence. So it's done at a step by step basis, as well as acknowledging and seeking the consent of her family. So I would think of it more in terms of her assent, which is her informal assent, the way that she is demonstrating by the way she reacts to yourself and to the camera, that she is happy with your presence, and that relates to my own research with young children and sometimes nonverbal children watching their reaction to me, and to looking out for body language as well as what they're able to articulate in terms of whether they've just about had enough. And sometimes that can mean children walk out on a research encounter because they've had enough, and sometimes they can say I've had enough.