

Research Methods

Research- a systematic approach to answering a question.

Early childhood research is mostly **qualitative**
Research with hypothesis is usually **quantitative**
Sequential designs include time-lag, longitudinal and cross sectional components. The main point is that by using a combination of methods, researchers can capitalise on the strengths and offset the limitations.

Research designs

- Time lag study- age is a constant
- Twin studies- explore the nature nurture
- Ethnographic- uncover cultural differences.
- Systematic reviews- bring together a range of studies
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Longitudinal study- often uses Cross sectional study

- Longitudinal- an individual studied overtime. Disadvantages- participants lost overtime and expensive.
- Cross sectional- This design involves participants from different age groups being studied at the same point in time.
Advantage- many conditions are the same for all participants. Disadvantage- may be differences in each individual.

Correlations- statistical method of determining the degree of association

Basic comparisons- provide some evidence, but need to be used quite cautiously.

Experimental research

1) Pre-experimental design

In **pre-experimental designs**, either a single group of participants or multiple groups are observed after some intervention or treatment presumed to cause change

2) Quasi-experimental

A quasi-experiment is an empirical interventional study used to estimate the causal impact of an intervention on target population without random assignment

3) True experimental

A **true experiment** is a type of **experimental design** and is used to establish cause and effect relationships.

There are three criteria that must be met in order for an **experiment** to be determined as a **true experiment**: At least one **experimental** and control group.

Researcher-manipulated variable. Random assignment

Ethics with experimental design

- Could be unethical
- Often hard to generalise (might not be in a real life scenario)
- Jump to conclusion

Randomised Control trials

- Strongest evidence for intervention

Measurement types

- Surveys
- Direct testing
- Observation
- Interviews
- Brain imaging