

10.2. Justification for a recommendations chapter

Power in research needs to be acknowledged and utilised for the greater good. It is my duty as a researcher to share the study participants' views, challenges and visions for improvements in the way families experience parental deployment within the ADF. Their participation in the research was in the hope of a better outcome for their own families and for future ADF children and families. It is also my responsibility to privilege the previously marginalised voices of children in this area of research. A summary of the literature review, methodology, ethics, data and my recommendations can be found in this [presentation](https://prezi.com/27rp_oymr5ce/?token=130336e184a8eb69f2393e426efdced59c0c7be7ef7f5d4233f317faaf8fdbaf&utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy) https://prezi.com/27rp_oymr5ce/?token=130336e184a8eb69f2393e426efdced59c0c7be7ef7f5d4233f317faaf8fdbaf&utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy for those who have not read the previous chapters in this thesis. The presentation is designed for ADF policy makers and social workers, REDLOs, family liaison officers, and early childhood educators to read this chapter alone, thus gaining some understanding of the full study. Additionally, throughout the chapter I have also included examples of raw data to demonstrate the various data collection tools and as a reminder of the voices of children, parents and educators within the study as displayed in the coloured textboxes and Figures 10.1 to 10.4.

Natalie (3): I went on an aeroplane.

Emily (2.5): I went to the airport today. (She had gone two days previously)

Emily: My Dad went on the plane.

The reasons why children's voices have been marginalised include historical and cultural factors. Western culture generally looks to adults to find out about the experiences of young children, rather than seeking to find out directly from the children. Traditional approaches have been to ask parents what is the best practice for their child, without finding out the wishes and understandings of the child involved. It can also be difficult to research with children, especially young children. Traditionally young children have not been considered able to clearly express themselves or to have sufficient knowledge or understandings of their lives to be valid research participants (Clark & Moss, 2011). As revealed in the coloured text boxes and Figures 10.1-10.14 there are many ways children express their experiences,