

## **Topic**

Gender

### **What is the focus of my investigation?**

I will be looking at the language of primary school children in mixed group settings. I will be looking at the differences between boys and girls

### **What will my data consist of?**

Transcriptions of children in mixed groups during lesson activities

### **From where will I collect my data?**

I will ask a local primary school if I can visit for an afternoon

### **What will I be investigating? What frameworks might be particularly useful? What might I be looking to explore?**

I hope to look at how boys and girls behave linguistically and whether there is a difference in single sex and mixed sex groups. Relevant frameworks will include

- Discourse – conversational analysis, structure, non-fluency features?
- Lexis – personal vocabulary use (differences between B/G?)
- Pragmatics – politeness strategies, speaker support, interruptions (impoliteness), assumed knowledge about behaviour of B/G? Gender roles in conversation? (Girls supportive? Boys competitive?), paralinguistic features?

### **What problems might I face? How will I address these?**

- Working with children – I need to write to the Headteacher and get his permission. Make sure that I anonymise all children in my transcript
- Lots of data – will take a long time to transcribe. Make sure I start immediately
- Children could “act” if they know I am taping them. Conceal the recorder?