

## Action Research Methodology, Data Analysis, Writing out your Findings

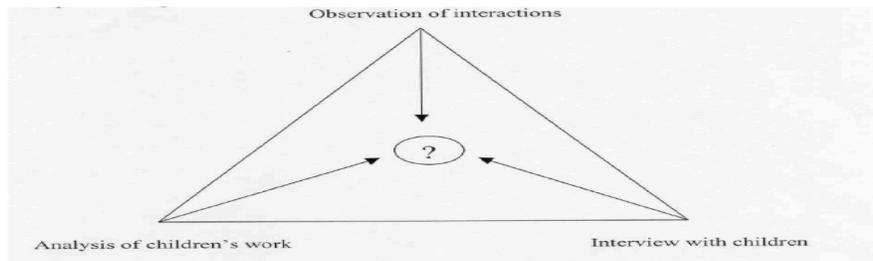
# CLASSROOM ACTION RESEARCH

## Techniques for Gathering Data

1. **Interviews** with students, parents, teachers
2. **Checklists** of skills, behaviors, abilities, movement, procedures, interactions, resources
3. **Portfolios** of a range of work from students of different abilities around a particular topic; a representation of a total experience; a collection of documents for analysis
4. **Individual files** of students' work (e.g., tapes, samples of work, art work, memos, photos of models/projects, reports), of students' opinions; of student attitudes, etc.
5. **Diaries/journals** written by teachers, students, parents, class groups, teachers
6. **Field notes/observation records** - informal notes written by a teacher
7. **Logs** of meetings, lessons, excursions, school expectations, material used
8. **Student-teacher discussion/interaction** - records of comments and thoughts generated by students
9. **Questionnaires** of attitudes, opinions, preferences, information
10. **Audiotapes** of meetings, discussions in class or about data gathered, games, group work, interviews, whole class groups, monologues, readings, lectures, demonstrations
11. **Videotapes** of classrooms, lessons, groups, demonstrations, a day in a school, lunch times
12. **Still photography** of groups working, classrooms, faces, particular students over time, at fixed intervals in a lesson
13. **Time-on-task analysis** of students, teachers; over a lesson, a day, a week



## Triangulation & Validity



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## General Guidelines for Protecting Students

- **Talk to your Administrator**
- **Voluntary Participation**
- **Informed Consent for Parents/Guardians**
  - Include description & purpose of study
- **Student Assent**
- **Assurance of Confidentiality**
- **Signatures of parent/guardian & date**



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## Writing Up Your Analysis - Methods



- The Methods Section of your Action Research Report will eventually contain:
  - Setting
  - Data Sources
    - Include any instruments
      - Surveys/questionnaires
      - Assessment probes
      - Interview protocols
      - Etc.
  - Analysis Techniques

## Writing Up Your Analysis - Findings

1. Structure your report in a way that works for you
2. Tell the story, be very descriptive  
“rich, thick description”
3. Use exemplars to support your findings
4. Tell where you struggled

