



# *Children's Think Tank*

FALL 2010 RESEARCH SUMMARIES





# Children's Think Tank

The *Children's Think Tank* is a group of children who are researching their own thought experiments on topics usually marginalized during the school day. In the Think Tank the children develop a process towards knowing their own theories, encountering their own questions and learning to look deeper into their interests through history, literature, film and discussions.

The resulting research summaries represent a gaze into the dialogue, written and verbal, that was documented during their time at the Think Tank. Just as in any research laboratory, some work may be of more interest than others. Our intention is to share their directions so that people may have the opportunity to enter into their fleeting cosmologies. In the *Children's Think Tank* we value the knowledge and insight of children, looking to them for collaboration and philosophical spontaneity. Lia clarified this project very well with, "Why do adults think that children are too little to learn things that they think is grown up stuff?"

*Research Participants:*

Abigail Ash, age 5  
Annika Brockman, age 8  
Warner Brockman, age 10  
Ellie Cohen, age 8  
Lilah Cohen, age 5  
Clara Gilleran, age 5  
Lia Gilleran, age 7  
Spencer Scaglione, age 7  
Sylvie Shrum, age 5

*Research Assistants:*

Heidi Gustafson, age 27  
Devon Deimler, age 25  
Ashley North Compton, age 26

*Thanks to visiting guests:*

Gabriel Snyder, Benjamin Turner, Katie Langer, David Bourgin and Zoe Friedman.

*Special thanks for providing time, energy or materials:*

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Dustin Wong, Marian Savage and all the guardians of the children in the Think Tank.

# Abigail Ash

Age: 5

Research Interest:

How the universe was made  
What is beyond the universe

Questions:

What's outside of the universe?  
And what's outside of that?  
And what's outside of that?  
How was the universe made?

Summary of Research Outcomes:

Nobody knows what is at the edge of the universe.  
(The edge of the universe) is in the middle of nowhere.  
Once I learn what's around outerspace, I'm going to learn what's around that and what's around that.  
I want to learn everything.

We could get there by riding on my imaginary friend Pegasus. We'd have to go there only in the morning, because people won't really believe it. So we'll have to wake up early (to travel to outerspace).

I don't know how long the universe goes on... I think it's the last number of years.

At the edge of the universe is the starting of a new universe. I think there are a thousand universes.

I think there is weird things and monsters (at the edge of the universe). The universe has Greek myths. I think mythological creatures could live there (at the edge of the universe) and that's why we think it doesn't exist, because we've never seen it. The universe has scary things and weird things. Probably colors we don't have here on Earth.

When the universe was made, it was very hot at the middle, surrounded by dust and cold stars. That is what I saw when I was astrally projecting there.

I think that stars are aliens because they look a little weird.

I think the planet Earth is an alien, because I read in a myth book that the planet Earth is actually a girl.



# Annika Brockman

Age: 8

## Research Interest:

Astral projection

Fortunes

Tarot Cards

## Questions:

What do I need to do to Astral Project?

What is Astral Projection?

How do I Astral Project?

## Summary of Research Outcomes:

Astral projecting is: our spirits going out of our body, going other places (the Actual), having adventures and finding out about things.

## What I need to do astral projection:

time from 6am to 7pm, information, experiment, peace and quiet.

Stage 1. Lie down, make yourself comfortable

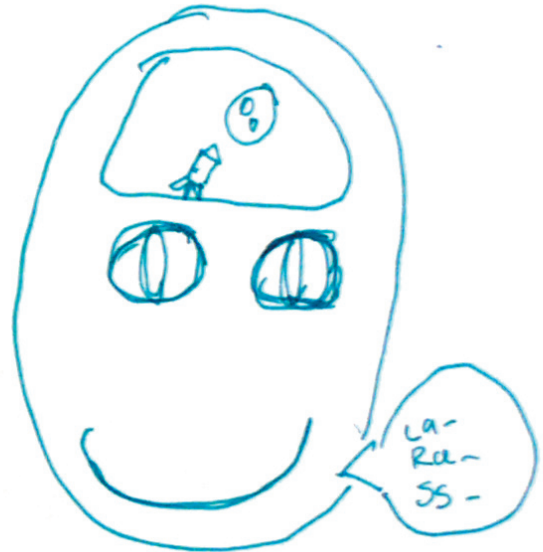
Stage 2. Stay still, say mantra (LA RA SS), get going

Stage 3. Travel

Stage 4. Come back to our world

I like to make my own world. That is kind of like astral projecting. (You can have) your own world by using your imagination. Astral projecting is just like your 2 (second) life. Astral projecting just becomes. Imagination is an idea of what you want to have and a little of it becomes. Lots of things are like these things.

Your own world can include a time machine. If you go in your own world (or mind), you can time travel. You can use your imagination. I don't use it (imagination) when I astrally project.



# Warner Brockman

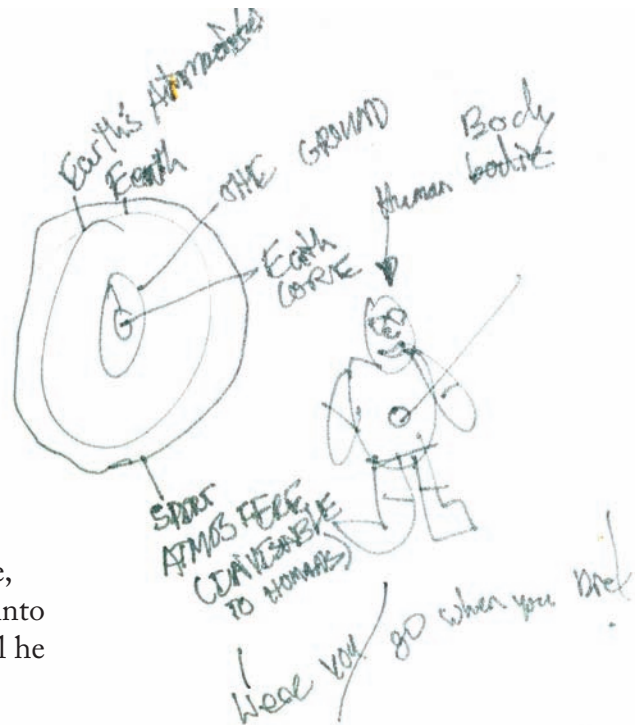
Age: 10

*Research Interest:*  
Life, Death and Reincarnation

*Questions:*  
What happens when you die?  
What is the life cycle?

*Summary of Research Outcomes:*

There's a body and it has a life and then there's a spirit and it has a life. Your body goes into spirit, after awhile, the body sort of doesn't go so well, and the spirit goes into another body and another body and another body until he realizes everything you can.



There's like your real body, you get the mother, then the belly, birth, baby, toddler. Then you become a child and your spiritual mind forms. You really get to understand all kinds of real stuff and then you become a pre-teen and you sort of develop more of your social self. Then you get teen and you start thinking about stuff like money and dumb stuff. And then you become a pre-grown up, that's sorta like college, and that is when you develop your SUPER social self. Then you're grown ups and you lose half of your good mind you got when you are a child. Parents aren't really .... they're thinking more about money and they never really listen to uh, about my ideas on like... dieing and reforming and all that kind of stuff. Then you become like 45-55 and you focus WAY too much on money and retiring and you do you have enough money to retire and all that blah stuff, and then you become grampa grama age and regain half the mind you lost while you were a teen and so you've got the child's mind again.

When your body becomes old it has less energy which makes your spirit to take the energy and escape from your body.

And then you die, and you realize what happened in your life, everything that you shoulda done better, like not financially or anything, spiritually.

Then you re-create and then you do it over again as long as you can till you learn all you can. Then you become a different spirit.

You become a different inner inner inner inner inner... spirit, person, like, a thousand, a lot, infinity times.

In the middle of your body, your spirit is roped. If it escapes, it takes energy from the body and you die. If it is starting to get out it can make you sick. Depending on where it tries to break out is where you get sick. If the body gets the spirit back in then you become not sick. If it breaks through you die.



# Ellie Cohen

Age: 8

*Research Interest:*

Astral Projection

Meditating to talk to your ancestors

*Questions:*

None

*Summary of Research Outcomes:*

I get to find everything out by astral projecting.

Astral projecting allows you to find the answers that you need by traveling to the place. Like I could travel to a mythological creature land (for Lia's research).

This is what happens to my body when I astral project

1. I start tingling
2. I black out
3. I find myself in a floating atmosphere
4. I start travel.

The top five reasons why people don't believe me (that I can astral project).

1. It is rare for people to do it.
2. I'm a kid!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
3. They don't believe in magic!
4. They're weird.
5. They can't see me.

If you are afraid of god then you will be separated from the thing that allows you to travel when you are astral projecting. That probably means you'll be stuck floating and waiting to go somewhere forever.

You can do anything when you are astral projecting as long as it is okay with your imagination. You get to know things you normally won't know and you can make new friends. They might not recognize you because you don't go as your normal self. Which I will probably never go to a different galaxy as my normal self. (I'd be going as) my spirit. When I'm about to astral project and go into my own world I feel like something is flowing through my body. It is kinda tickly, but not quite. It feels like it is going down to my toes, then I kinda black out and I kinda see myself floating and I just say where I want to go. You are kind of connected, a part of you stays, because you wouldn't be alive if part of your soul didn't stay (in your body while you are traveling). Your believing that something is impossible is kind of connected. If you believe in magic, then you can probably do it and get to know things you wouldn't normally, and it might help you.

But, if you don't believe in magic, what good will it do you?

You'll think it is some kind of dream.



# Lilah Cohen

Age: 5

*Research Interest:*  
Afterlife, Spirits, Angels

*Questions:*  
What happens when everyone dies?  
Do people come back alive?  
Do ghosts rule the Earth?  
Is Heaven like when you are alive or like something else?  
Is it (the afterlife), like flying cars or everyone dressed in weird outfits?

*Summary of Research Outcomes:*  
I been wondering for such a long time. I think, in the afterlife it rains candy.

It (the afterlife) is there so even though you are dead you still feel like you are alive. Some people are in the afterlife with an angel.

I think that angels are the cousins of fairies. I think they watch over people. They discovered and made happiness. I believe that angels are inside of you (points to stomach). They can move anywhere they want. One angel lives up in the sky. I think that some angels live in heaven. There is body angels, life angels and heaven angels. Heaven angels live in Heaven and watch over spirits. A spirit has no wings and angels have wings. Spirits are made of air.

You have a (life) cycle. It goes grown-up, baby, grown-up, baby, grown-up, baby, grown-up, baby....



*I m Air (image of life cycle on left, a spirit on the right)*



# Clara Gilleran

Age: 5

*Research Interest:*

Aliens, Alien Worlds

*Questions:*

Are Aliens real?

What do Alien worlds look like?

*Summary of Research Outcomes:*

I think they are real. I think they have pets, taxis  
(that fly and are submarines) and cave homes.

(There is) no evidence of aliens. I just believe they are real.

I saw their tails on the first floor of my house. It was green.

It ran away. I think it's on a different planet now, Mars.

This was yesterday, it (the alien) comes often.

I try to talk to it but it doesn't listen. It has no body, just a tail.

Anyone can see an alien.

You can see two eyes in ice cream cones (icecream might be aliens), you can see two eyes in anything.



*an alien bush*

*an alien star*

# Lia Gilleran

Age: 7

## Research Interest:

Mythology

Mythological creatures and plants

## Questions:

How are gods born?

How are magical creatures born?

Why or how did ancient people become kings?

What are the plants that are in the gods' lands?

What kind of pets did mythological gods have?

## Summary of Research Outcomes:

I'm interested in mythology and questions about it that books don't explain to me. They don't tell me the details of what really happens.

There are three fates. The Spinner, the Measurer and Death. They decide a man's life. The first one spins life and decides what his job is going to be. The next one measures the life line and how long it is going to be. And that one (Death) cuts it and decides when you are dead.

Once when I was in after-care, we were making long lines of legos of one color and we were pretending to be the fates and I was the one who broke them apart (the Death fate).

Mythology has come up for different names for the months. For example, Capricorn was created by Pan, once frightened by the monster Typhon, he changed into a goat, but by accident he fell into a lake until his instincts told him to change into a fish. So his top was a goat and his bottom was a fish. The gods found this so amusing they put Capricorn's constellation up in the sky. Capricorn is December. I'm in Capricorn. (I'm like a Capricorn) because I'm so mischievous and Pan gets into a lot of trouble.

I remember in the story, Pan was telling the Nymphs "I'm not scared of everything." So the lesson is... it is good to be scared sometimes, because if you say, "I'm not scared of the lion," the lion is going to eat you.



# Spencer Scaglione

Age: 7

## Research Interest:

How things are related  
How the universe and the human body are related

## Questions:

How are the human body and the universe related?

## Summary of Research Outcomes:

A baby in mom's stomach and the Milky Way are the same.  
White blood cells and Pacman are the same, and stars.

A computer is related to the heart. The *heart drive*.

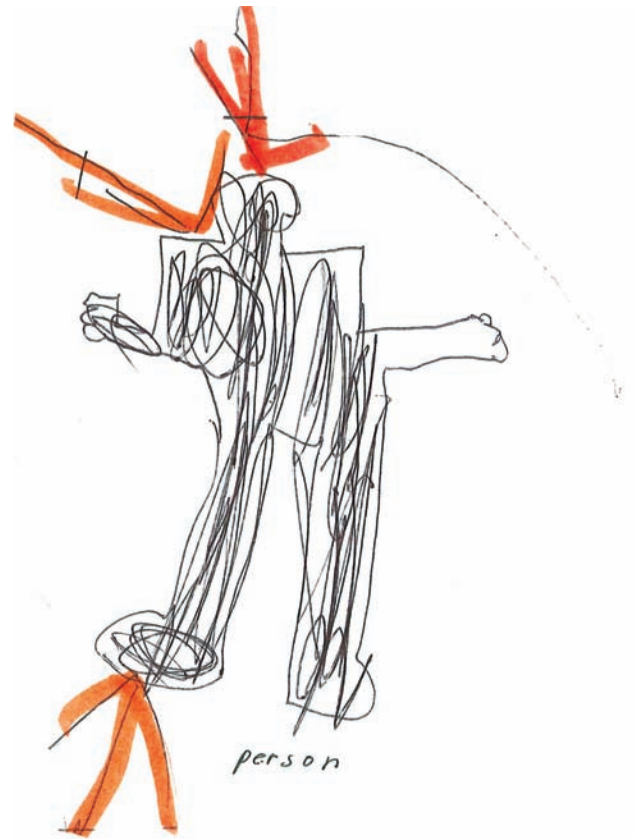
Sun and the heart and the brain are related. They (the heart and the sun) are each a different color. The heart looks like a peanut. The brain and the Sun are related because they are both huge.

The sun and the heart are related because one pumps blood and its like the heat from the sun.  
If the heart stops pumping, you stop living.  
If the sun stops pumping, you can't see anything.  
If you can't see anything, if somebody turned the Sun off a bear or a wolf might come in the city right here and boom, you'll be gone.

The Sun is powering Heaven too, or... the Moon is? Heaven is Mythology or something.  
The Sun is like it's (Heaven) Moon.

Gods are related to stars. When a god dies, thousands of gods become alive. Just like stars. When a star dies it blows up and becomes many more stars.

A neuron could be a universe, if you're a microbed size, well smaller then a microbe. There's a way how to teleport from place to place. This (the neuron in your body) is another way. Why would there be a glow (i.e. neuron) in the middle of the body?



# Sylvie Shrum

*Age:* 5

*Research Interest:*

Magic

How the Earth was Made

*Questions:*

How is magic made?

How was the Earth made?

*Summary of Research Outcomes:*

I don't know if magic is, well I know it is real because I can do it, but I don't know how it is made.

I think it was made from a long time ago, before the world began. I think it was made when the Native Americans were at the United States, before we were here.

I didn't learn how magic was made. Well I learned on the playground. But I know what things are magic.

Magic is: love, tricks, music, fairies, people, wizards.

Magic is not: computers, eyeballs, cups, lights (they only have batteries), cars aren't magic (they have humongous batteries) and toys.

The world would be boring without magic, for real. Nobody would be doing anything because your body is magic, so you would be doing nothing. Nothing is nothing. The whole day and the whole night we'd be sitting around doing nothing. That would be pretty boring.

The world needs magic, even if I don't know where it comes from. Well it comes from anything that *is*.

I don't know how magic is made, but I don't think anybody does. Nobody knows how magic is made, because it is magic.



for more info visit:  
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