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When do children trust what other people tell them?

Paul Harris is Victor S. Thomas Professor of Education at Harvard University. He is interested in the early development of cognition, emotion and imagination. His most recent book, 'The Work of the Imagination', gathers together several years of research carried out at Oxford University, where he taught Developmental Psychology.



Currently, he is conducting research in two areas. First, he is studying whether children rely on their own firsthand observation or alternatively trust what other people tell them, especially when they confront a domain of knowledge in which firsthand observation is difficult. Second, he is studying children's understanding of mental states, including emotional states. He is particularly interested in the extent to which children's access to conversation about psychological matters influences their understanding of emotion. Paul Harris is the Winner of the 2009 William Thierry Preyer Award for Excellence in Research on Human Development. He has published more than 200 papers in the most prestigious journals and six books which have been translated in several languages. Paul Harris did the major part of his work in England where he was born, especially as Professor of experimental Psychology at Oxford University.