Production and Products of Preschool Documentation

Entanglements of children, things, and templates

Katarina Elfström Pettersson
Preschool teachers are required to document and evaluate the quality of the preschool. Documentation involves human and non-human material entities, such as teachers, children, computers, photos and templates. How do all entities play a part in documentation? What is produced as preschool quality?

The Swedish Curriculum for the Preschool suggests that children participate in documentation and evaluation. Through a posthumanist agential realist approach, the study shows how children’s participation in production of documentation does not depend on which documentation method is used. The study also points out that the products of documentation produce rather than represent certain elements of quality. The focus of preschool documentation shifts away from individual children and towards teachers’ activities and, rather than representing preschool practices, documentation creates possibilities for what preschool practices and quality may become.