



**A View from the Middle:
Life through the Eyes of Middle Childhood**
Including new findings reflecting the September 11th tragedy

About the Study

A year ago, Sesame Workshop inquired into the lives of 6- to 11-year-olds, the age group research shows is least well-served by educational media, to understand how they saw their world. In our study, *A View from the Middle: Life through the Eyes of Middle Childhood*, children told us about themselves by completing workbooks without interference from adults, sharing what they liked, feared, and hoped for; how they saw themselves, and whom they admired. The study was conducted as a first step toward creating media to address their developmental and educational needs.

The study, conducted with Margaret Mark Strategic Insight, took an unprecedented approach by going directly to children and asking them to describe their lives. Using the written word, artwork, pictures, and collages, children completed a booklet designed to capture what they really care about called All About Me. The special perspective of 9-11 year-olds was revealed through a Jungian archetypal framework in a second booklet entitled Kid's View. These children were supplied with a disposable camera to photograph individuals in their communities such as the Hero, the Wise One, the Troublemaker, and the Magician.

The Workshop has conducted new research to investigate how September 11th has impacted children in this age group. Using the instruments developed for the original study, this research paints a picture of the emotional impact the event has had on children, their view of their world, their hopes, their fears, and what gives them hope.

The new research involved eighty-seven children, half of which live in the New York and Washington, D.C. areas. An additional forty participants were recruited from shopping malls in geographically dispersed locations, from Memphis, Tennessee to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Santa Ana, California. The high response rate (80%) demonstrated children's eagerness to tell their stories.