

**Paranormal "U"****Children Perception and the Paranormal**

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Many people talk about the reasons children perceive the paranormal better than adults. A common response is that children have not been informed that ghosts and entities do not exist. Therefore, they do not block out their experiences as adults are prone to do. Another popular reason is that children are too young to be influenced by society or belief systems that deny the existence of paranormal activity.

Part of the reason adults believe the children have imaginary friends, talk to people who are not there, even describing someone who they say they play with, is because western culture where entities are involved, is millennia behind other cultures. Acceptance of spirits in Asia, South America, even American Indians has existed throughout their history.

Westerners are very narrow minded when it comes to the existence of the paranormal. Attributing those children seeing entities is caused by a very active imagination. Despite scientific proof of extra sensory perception, clairvoyance, and psychic abilities in children, a majority of people blame media and stories.

Even when children describe family members they not only never met, but did not even know existed, the explanation still reverts to the vivid imagination misnomer.

Some believe the actual reason children see things most adults can't, is due to biology. There are spectrums of light that are just above, and below, the visible spectrum. The three spectrums are

Visible - 400 – 700nm

Ultraviolet – 400 – 315nm

Infrared – 750-1mm

It is believed that the best chance of seeing an entity is in the ultraviolet or infrared spectrums, just below, or above, the visible spectrum of light. We can detect three dimensions length, width, and depth. A fourth dimension, time, is perceived.

Ultraviolet or Infrared light differs only in the existence of specialized cells on our retina that contains a pigment that can detect these wavelengths. Cats can see into the ultraviolet spectrum, the retina in humans usually absorbs the ultraviolet light before reactions are triggered by these special cells.

Children are known to see light to 380nm which is in the ultraviolet range, older people cannot see 400nm; the visible range changes as we age, not allowing older people to see things children can. When asked if they have ever seen a ghost, most people say no. The question we have to ask ourselves is, do they know what a ghost looks like? When a person says I saw something out of the corner of my eye, but as soon as I looked, it was gone. What are they seeing?

Peripheral vision is weaker in humans, compared to other animals, especially in distinguishing color and shape. Rod cells are predominant in the periphery of the cornea; these cells are not able to distinguish color, but are best at detecting motion.

## ***Bumps in the Night!!!!***

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#### *Children Perception and the Paranormal*

Many who have seen ghosts describe them, not as looking like a see-through person, but as a dark shadow, darker than the environment they are seen in. Is a shadow person, how we see entities, due to the light spectrum limitations of our individual eyes?

Children can actually see into the ultraviolet spectrum, sub 400nm, they can simply see things that others can't.

There are psychologists who consider paranormal experiences, in children, as normal psychological phenomena based on cognitive errors. They believe many paranormal experiences as common illusions or ordinary mistakes in logical thinking. Most western children with a special gift of detecting the paranormal encounter skepticism and disbelief, they are encouraged to remain silent about their paranormal experiences.

Because some children do not have the cultural knowledge to distinguish between the paranormal and normal may make them more open to paranormal experiences than older children or adults. There are two main categories in children's experiences with spirits. Psychological in which the spirits are an expression of the child's subconscious mind and real paranormal cases in which the child is in touch with a spirit.

Children who have never heard the concept of auras, their parents did not believe in them, have claimed to see a vital energy surrounding other people. Some of these children state that they have seen the auras since they can remember. The descriptions, provided by the children, match the observations of adult psychics.

Children have also been known to spontaneously claim to recall a previous life. The claims usually start between the ages of two and four. In some cases, there are concrete statements that can link the child's story to an actual deceased person.

You would be amazed at the number of adults who describe paranormal experiences they had as a child, but never talked about. If they never talked about their experiences, they did not know how to process or understand them, let alone know what to do about the experiences.

Children who are particularly open and receptive to spirit communication may see and hear from others who have passed away. It can be frightening to see or hear from people who are strangers to them. It is believed that once a child has successfully communicated with one spirit, more are sure to follow. These 'visitors' frequently come when the child is asleep or just drifting off. This is when their mind is most receptive. Some believe that the timing of these events is further proof that is the mind playing tricks and not an actual visitation from an entity.

Very often children are a good source of information, because of their open mindedness and lack of rejection of the paranormal. Although children are known for their creative imagination, we cannot simply dismiss their paranormal experiences on this ground alone.

So how can you tell if your child's chat with his imaginary friend is normal child play or a paranormal experience? Age appropriateness is one way. Generally, children at the age of 2, 3, and 4 are not able to distinguish between a ghost and a truly imaginary playmate. By the time they are 7, 8, or 9, they are able to distinguish between an apparition and a shadow on the bed.

Some cultures are more accepting of ghosts or spirits than others. Also parent reaction can have an effect. Younger children will stick to their stories, while older kids may have been taught there are no ghosts. When approached by a child and told of a paranormal encounter, there are parents who are scared and isolated dealing with their children's perceived abilities.