

Ask A Genius 19 - The Future of Children's Rights

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What about the future of children's rights - organisms in development?

You have two perspectives. One is the march towards slow and reasonable equality across the centuries. Children's rights are inherently limited by children's not being fully developed. LA is full of reasonable parents trying to reason with kids that aren't yet at the point of reason. Kids being told to be quiet in a library or being told to leave instead.

A granola mom attempting to have a dialogue with this kid who can't dialogue instead of taking more practical action, just going outside. Restaurants, it's the same deal. Outside of kids' inability to be fully competent, we have a trend towards granting respect to humans of all types.

On a larger, longer, and weirder timescale, you have genetic engineering, advances in medicine, changes to society, and what that will do to the presence and the role of children 100 or 200 years from now. As people live longer and longer because medicine gets better and better, children will have fewer and fewer children, and many will have them later in life.

It could be that people don't have children in their own wombs. It could be that a child is something you set up and have outside of the women. A lot of different stuff can happen. In the near term, kids will get respect and rights that are in line with their rights and how to manage those rights.

We don't have kids working 80 hours a week working on weaving looms, losing fingers and arms. Although, there is still some of that going on at times. There is slow and positive progress towards children not have to go through that kind of labour.