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review 1

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may i kindle a light?

sitting at a table with hannah arendt and philosophy for/with
children in dark times

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dear author,

Thank you for your contribution to *Childhood & Philosophy*. Your paper presents an engaging discussion on Hannah Arendt's political philosophy in the context of Philosophy for/with Children (P4wC). The topic is timely and relevant, and the introduction of the "Light-Keeper" and "Light-Intensity Manager" roles in P4wC is particularly intriguing. However, the paper requires major revisions to improve its clarity, structure, and methodological transparency.

1. clarify the research question & objectives (introduction)

Issue: The introduction lacks a clear research question and well-defined objectives; The paper is structured as an exploratory discussion rather than a focused argument.

Rewrite the last paragraph of the introduction to explicitly state:

What is the central question this paper seeks to answer?

What contribution does it make to the field of P4wC?

Also, rewrite the introduction to define the research question explicitly.

2. condense and structure the abstract

Issue: The abstract is too long and contains excessive metaphorical language.

It does not clearly outline the research question, methodology, or conclusions.

Rewrite the abstract using this structure:

Background (Why is this topic important?)

Research Question (What problem is being investigated?)

Methodology (How is the paper approaching this problem?)

Main Findings (What are the key arguments/contributions?)

Conclusion & Implications (How does this impact childhood philosophy?)

3. methodological issues:

Weaknesses:

- There is no explicit methodology section—how was this study conducted?
- The author references facilitation experiences in Iran, but it is unclear whether this is empirical research, autoethnography, or a purely theoretical discussion.
- No clear framework for evaluating P4wC: The paper lacks systematic criteria to assess the effectiveness of P4wC in "dark times."

4. improve logical flow & reduce repetition

Issue: The paper repeats key concepts (e.g., isolation, loneliness, totalitarianism) multiple times without adding new insights.

The sections do not transition smoothly, making it difficult to follow the argument.

Use headings and subheadings to improve structure.

Summarize concepts concisely the first time they are introduced, then apply them rather than restating them.

Use transition sentences to connect sections logically.

As Editing Task:

Identify redundant sections and condense them.

Ensure each paragraph introduces a new idea rather than repeating previous ones.

5. strengthen engagement with existing P4wC literature

Issue: The paper relies heavily on Hannah Arendt but does not engage enough with Philosophy for/with Children (P4wC) scholarship.

Theoretical claims lack empirical or case study support.

Cite key contemporary P4wC scholars (e.g., Matthew Lipman, Ann Sharp, Gareth Matthews).

Include empirical studies on P4wC in politically constrained educational settings.

Compare your argument to existing research—does it support, extend, or challenge previous findings?

In addition, add citations from key P4wC scholars.

Include at least one empirical study as evidence.

6. improve the conclusion with clear takeaways

Issue: The conclusion repeats earlier points without providing new insights.

The practical implications for educators are unclear.

Summarize the main argument in 2-3 sentences.

Provide clear takeaways for P4wC facilitators.

Suggest directions for future research.

Rewrite the conclusion to include: A concise summary of the key argument; Practical implications for educators; Suggestions for future research.

summary, key revisions required:

1. Clarify the Research Question
2. Define the central question in the introduction.
3. Specify how the paper contributes to P4wC research.
4. Improve Structure & Logical Flow
5. Reduce repetitions and metaphorical language.
6. Ensure smooth transitions between sections.
7. Specify Methodology: Is this a theoretical analysis, autoethnography, or an empirical study?
8. Clarify the sources and approach used.
9. Balance Theoretical and Empirical Literature
10. Reduce over-reliance on Arendt.
11. Include contemporary P4wC research and case studies.
12. Provide Concrete Recommendations: How should P4wC facilitators apply the "Light-Keeper" and "Light-Intensity Manager" roles?
13. Offer practical strategies for educators.

final notes:

If these revisions are implemented, the paper will be **significantly** stronger, clearer, and more academically rigorous. Please ensure that the abstract,

introduction, and conclusion are aligned and that each section builds logically on the previous one.

Best regards,

Referee