The purpose of this study is to investigate what the fundamental choices in a child’s life are that are the most important as regards the path to the attainment of health and holiness for each unique child. The study’s theoretical perspective is based on the Caring Science suppositions developed at the Department of Caring Science, Åbo Akademi University. Health as becoming entails that human beings become whole on a deeper level of integration. Humans attain an inner wholeness; this unity comprises humans’ true essence. Health and suffering are connected to one another. Suffering and love cause humans to mature into a more diverse wholeness, into deeper holiness.

Hermeneutics in accordance with Gadamer constitutes the study’s knowledge interest and methodology, which entails that dialectics and openness are emphasized during the search for knowledge. The study’s reasoning follows whole-part-whole in accordance with its hermeneutic thought process. In order to increase understanding of a child’s becoming, an attempt at an interpreted effort exists throughout the study. The study consists of three parts. The first part is an overview of previous research, which provides the study’s pre-understanding. The second part consists of interpretations of four chosen studies. Based on these, an inductively derived provisional model is formed. This model serves as the foundation for the study’s third part, which consists of thematic interviews. The new understanding formed from the results of the study’s second and third parts provide a final model for the support columns in children’s movement towards becoming.

The main categories that emerge as the support columns for children’s movement towards becoming consist of the home as ethos, communion, desire for affirmation, and play. In the home as ethos category, children’s desire for peace is seen. The experience of peace is important in order for a child to be able to move between the to have, to be, and to become dimensions of health. In the home as ethos category, a child can appear as his/her true self; it is here that a child experiences peace and freedom. It is in this freedom, in loneliness’ subject existence, that a child’s holy wholeness develops and is started. In the communion category, a child’s desire for true and nourishing relationships as well as an existential perception of reality is emphasized. This perception of reality provides a child with the courage to step into the infinite space that life appears to be. In the desire for affirmation category, immediateness is seen, that someone confirms the child in the here and now. In the play category, enthusiasm and joy are seen, which gives the child a moment of total surrender and holiness. Enthusiasm gives meaning to the child’s life.