

It is all about awakening wonder

For our session with the kids tomorrow we will facilitate a mini Goethean place study with the kids in order have a fun and structured activity, to help Jamil and the kids renovate the facility, and to teach them:

1. Careful observation
2. Articulation and representation of their perceptions
3. The importance of their own perceptions and perspectives
4. Conversation and respect for the pieces/perspectives that others bring to the picture
5. Sensitivity to the structures and moods of places
6. Ways to enhance what is already there

Part 1: "To see what we can see..."

We will be walking around with small groups of kids and observing.

1. The block and approach to the building — where is it in the neighborhood?
2. The façade and front — how does it welcome people and let them in and out?
3. The back yard — what can the outside be? How does it relate to the building?
4. The inside — how do the rooms relate? What should the front room be? Activities? Moods?

Return to the room and discuss in the large group what they saw.

Part 2: "To look again"

Instruction: write on your pad some part of the place that you liked or disliked or thought was interesting.

Divide into interest groups and go to that section to explore more fully.

Give them some prompts, such as: what does a fence do? What is a door? What is a sidewalk/street? How does a room hold people? Funnel them through?

In your group, Have the kids describe what they see, draw it/sketch it, write about it etc.

Can they take pictures and choose one that expresses their sense of the place most deeply? – send it to Jamil.

Come back to the room and tell the larger group.

Part 3: "To show others and share"

For our next session, we will assemble the pictures and show and discuss them, and we will look at the four elements earth (material stuff), water (the flowing gestures of place), the air (the moods and atmospheres of a place), and the fire (what inspires us here, what is the idea that lives here). Then we will talk about enhancements and ideas for making the place better.