

I would like to tell others....

- (staff) what a pleasure it is to play (even if you are older)
- to be more open ended (forget the end-product, value the process) don't limit creativity
- there are no right answers
- give it a go
- be yourself
- keep trying/going
- enjoy yourself
- it's ok to make mistakes (but what are mistakes!)
- to trust the children
- to give educators/parents and children TIME and the experience of what we have been doing today

Inspired by young children's innate curiosity of the world around them, I provided 'found' objects and materials for you to use, as a creative stimulus for exploratory play, invention and expression. We spoke about the stories objects have to tell (mentioning the wonderful 'A History of the World in 100 Objects' radio programme) and I encouraged you to transform your objects, with an emphasis on discovering what the materials could do, and on being led by the process.

We began by acknowledging the significance of the individual, the group, the setting and the moment, all as powerful contributors to the learning experience. I then invited you to explore the space, as a way to settle and focus into the session.

'Imagination and fiction make up more than three quarters of our real life'
 Simone Weil



What is a reflective practitioner?

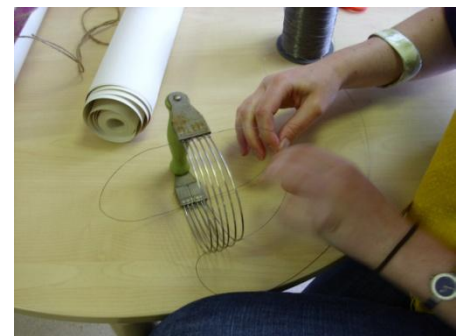
**A CCI workshop for
 ReFocus Cambridge
 Early Years Educators
 led by Sally Brown
 Pat-a-cake Nursery, 12th June**

- should be fun
- is infinite
- is creative
- is open ended
- can't be wrong
- needs more time and space
- is immersive
- is exploring, feeling, touching, freedom
- is exciting
- should come from the children
- should be child focussed
- needs to be given time and space
- can be your own journey
- is continuous
- can be more creative
- can start from a small seed
- is hands on
- is off the chair and off the page

Reflections on the experience:

This session made me think that learning....

Finally, I asked you to consider how you might use your object as the starting point for a small intervention back in your own setting.

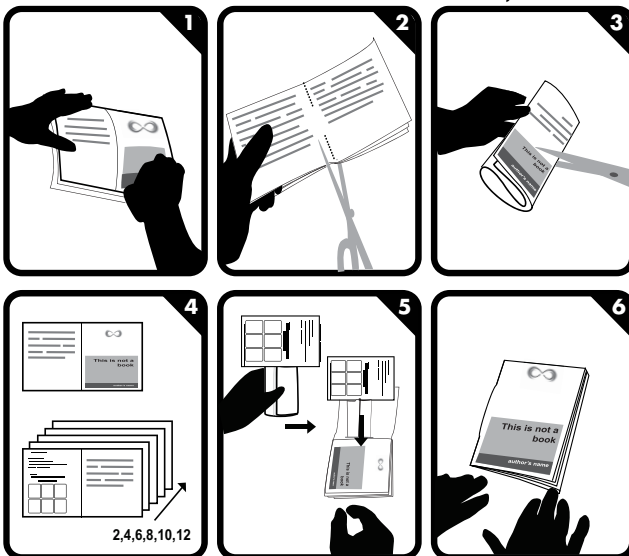


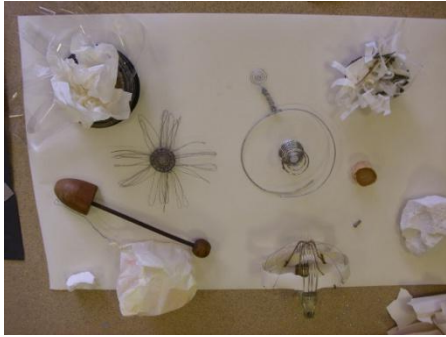
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- start a collection of interesting objects and get them out regularly
- use an object as a creative stimulus
- workshop with staff and parents
- 'prune' resources, set out fewer at a time in future and use more 'found' (cheap/expandable) resources
- remember to create space, time and peace as being crucial for deep thought and learning
- communicate more with the parents about what the children are doing

Back in my setting I will....



- I was surprised that....
- I did enjoy doing the activity
- I found it hard to begin...but really enjoyed
- I just went with it - thoroughly enjoyed it,
- loved the string, experimented, got immersed, all sorts of connections...can be interpreted by the audience
- how relaxing it felt...and time went so fast
- how much SCIENCE there was
- the final outcome was different to my plan
- my creativity only came in a safe environment
- it brought back memories
- there were so many different ideas
- everyone interpreted it in their own way, did I do the wrong thing (no)!
- so much could be learnt from so little

I wonder why....

- there is not enough time
- I lose sight of what I know to be right
- early years and 'educators' (year 1 up) do not have a better connection
- we don't value the process more
- OUTCOMES drive the system
- I've not thought of this before
- there are so many hurdles to overcome
- there is such a lack of understanding of early education

