

Holes, Stones, Caves and Carpets: Spatial Configurations in the Construction of the Self and the Group

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Abstract

According to Marc Augé, the place as an invention is the founding principle of the group. Based on this idea, the present study aims to address the construction of the self and the group through different spatial configurations built with 3 to 6 year old children. Body excavations in the sand, circular configurations made with stones, textile covers, carpets and other temporary constructions, allow us to work with the innate creativity of children using elements and signs of the place. In this way, through these spatial configurations the self is put together with the others, making decisions and sharing experiences. To have that group play time it also helps to be more empathetic towards each other. Through these collective configurations and processes, the simple act of constructing a circle and telling the story leads us to consider the self in relation to others as an important element that makes the group.

Keywords

Art education, Early childhood education, Spatial construction, Social learning, Collective action.