

Exploring art with children










Courage – Helsinki Photo Festival 4.8.-30.10.2023

Art can be viewed and explored even with very young children. Give children time to get acquainted with works of art, marvel them, look at them. Creating a relaxed atmosphere is essential when exploring art.

Every interpretation and opinion is right. The artist may have a different view of the work and the audience different, both equally valuable interpretations.

For exercise you can start by looking 1-2 photos together with the group. The adult asks children open questions about the photo and at the same time teaches them to draw attention: *What is happening in this picture? How did you conclude that? What else can be seen in the picture? What does the picture want to tell us?*

Tasks to be performed according to the group's interests:

-  Which work of art calls the most? Everyone chooses one work and tells others what interests the most in this specific photo.
-  What is the most "Courage" photo, why?
-  Is there some photo that one does not understand, do others understand?
-  What photo one would have liked to be taken by themselves, why? Rename the chosen work.
-  Which of the photos was the hardest to take, which the easiest? Let's think, who took the photos: *professional photographer, hobbyist, can anyone just photograph?*
-  Invent a background story for a photo: What has happened before, during and after? (can be implemented as a follow-up story when one starts and the others continue)
-  Choose your favorite photo and take a picture of yourself with it. If you want, you can merge into the photo by presenting the missing character from the image or pose the same way as someone or something in the photo. You can share your photo in social media with a tag #helsinkiphotofestival @helphotofestival
-  In small groups, select 1-3 photos. Take a picture of them. Recreate the situation of the work staged in your own ECEC centre and take a picture! Share photos (original and your version) side by side in social media with a tag #helsinkiphotofestival @helphotofestival. Always remember to mention the author of the original work!
-  You can view more Courage works of art on website helsinkiphotofestival.com. Explore how many exhibitions there are and how many different versions of Courage photos there exist.

Making art with children






Own "Courage" making

Ideas for doing your own Courage works of art in the spirit of photography after visiting an exhibition. You can also get acquainted with the festival's works from your own ECEC centre! The Helsinki Photo Festival website offers a journey into the world of Courage.

Let us first explore the word Courage together with the group. What does it mean to have courage? Who has courage? When is it good to have courage? What is opposite to courage and is it needed? The topic can be processed through drama pedagogy.

Choose the tasks taking into account the age distribution of your child group. Apply tasks according to the age and interest of the children. Pick up the best ideas to get started for artistic work!

Tasks as a starting point for photographic work:

-  How does the courage look like? Let's practice. Take pictures of eyes with courage, hands with courage, movement that shows courage! You can share your photo in social media with a tag #helsinkiphotofestival @helphotofestival
-  Make your own matchbox camera (decorate and put a hanging string on it)
 - Blank papers inside the box for to draw things seen and "photographed"
 - Make a trip to a park or forest and "photograph" things that convey Courage
 - Display others your Courage works
-  Taking staged pictures: Plan what kind of photo could convey Courage (is there people, what people do, where is the photo taken, what is visible in the background, is the photo taken from the point of view of an ant or giraffe) and take some photos. Explore the photos taken by others.
-  Organizing your own exhibition on the theme Courage. You can take photos with real camera as well as with a matchbox camera. Use the photos already taken and possibly picture pairs with works from Helsinki Photo Festival's Courage exhibition and recreations made by children. Remember to mention the author of the original picture. Write photo descriptions next to ones work in exhibition.
-  Working based on ones own or a joint photo:
 - Paint over a photo and turn the photo into a painting
 - Invent a story, a poem or a song on the background of the photo
 - Recreate the photo with other artistic ways (draw, paint, mold – make pairs of works)
 - Let's make a sound landscape for the photo and record it (can be added as a part of your own exhibition as well! *What kind of voices are associated with courage?*)