

Personal Report, IP “Early Years”, Barcelona, April 2013.

Discovering, Learning and Creating with All Senses

Ane Bjerre Odgaard, Lecturer, UC Syddanmark, Esbjerg.

For me, this second version of the IP “*Early Years, Discovering. Learning and creating with all the senses*”, was foremost characterized by a playful and energetic exploration of performative interaction with urban surroundings and urban life.

We did surprising flash mobs in Parc Güell, showing animals gathering in a rhythmic canon. We did hopscotches on Placa d’Espanya, inspired by the pictorial languages of Joan Miró and Antoni Gaudí, and successfully invited passers-by to join the jumping game. We had theoretical discussions on play-culture and ruled vs. less ruled social actions and games. We had presentations on early childhood institutions all over Europe and discussions on the level of scheduled activities and free play. To sum up; we did exploratory, creative and educative activities which put into play a wide range of behavior and systems which often go unquestioned if not challenged. I see this as the essential value of our project this year.

Reflecting upon this year’s IP will of course also implicate considerations of similarities and differences between this year in Barcelona and last year in Namur. Our Namur IP was characterized by our being together on a “wireless island” due to the lack of external distractions, of which the urban surroundings of Barcelona was bursting full. But the integration into urban space this year in Barcelona gave our project a lot more than just blasé distraction; it gave us a new dimension of performative and playful interaction with the world around us – adding a sense of realizability outside our own circle.