

Cheyenne Dalvinck (Belgium – Antwerp)

Personal reflection Intensive Program in Barcelona 2013

When we first got the mail about this program I immediately knew that I wanted to do this. So I took my chance and I signed up for the program. When I was sure that I could come I was sure that this would be a great experience. I met a lot of great people and got so many new ideas to try in the classroom in Belgium.

At the first day it was a little strange to see all these people from different countries. We were all sitting with the people that we knew. But it didn't take that long before we started to mingle. The next day we needed to do some trusting games to get to know each other better.

These were all related to the senses and it was fun to experience it for our selves. Because of these exercises we all got to know the different people in the project. We quickly became a close group and that was one of the things that made this a good experience.



The workshops were all very interesting but there were some workshops that were more exciting than others. One of these was the flash mob that we did on Saturday morning. We needed to be a real group in order to do the exercise, and because we were a good group this was real fun to do. We needed to look closely to the teacher who gave some signs that we needed to

represent. We ran through the whole city to do these exercises, and it was really fun to see everybody act the same way and enjoy the workshop. Another workshop that I liked was the one in Park Guell. At this workshop we needed to go to different short workshops, they were all very different and we saw so many ways of doing exercises in just one place. For an example we needed to follow one person and make a story up about this person without talking to them. So we used our imagination and the stories that other people came up with were really funny. Another workshop was that we played hide and seek to get to know the environment, on this way we got to know it without even realising it. After the hide and seek game we made our own mosaic with the group, it was a good way to work together and experience the magic of the park.



I have learned a lot of new things, and I learned to look at everything differently. We saw a lot of good and new ideas that I can use in my own classroom. It was good that we had to make lesson plans and could talk about our ideas in a group so that we had a second opinion. It wasn't always easy to work in a group but eventually everything went well and we found solutions for every problem.

I think the conclusion of what I'll take in the practice is that I need to look further and look at all the possibilities. Also it doesn't matter where you come from, when you just try to make someone understand or to understand someone else you can almost do anything. The language doesn't matter it's the way you express yourself that matters.

The things that I learned about myself on the personal side are that I need to try to let go sometimes. I take the lead and don't want to change some of the ideas. Also when there's something that I don't like or when something happened I can be harsh, I need to think about what other people are feeling at that moment. I just need to say it in a different way so that other people won't take it the wrong way.

In these two weeks I learned a lot and I experienced many different things. My English is better than before, I learned some words from the other languages, I have a different point of view and of course made a lot of new friends. Also I was pleasantly surprised by all the different school systems, I didn't know that there were so many differences in the style of teaching and in the schools. I think that I always will remember these two weeks and that I can use the experience to change some things in my way of teaching.

I hope that we all can keep contact and that we maybe see each other again one day.