

TACTYC Conference Nov. 8th, 2008:

Discussion Workshop led by Maulfry Worthington

Playing with Imagination

Imaginative play is often a social activity supporting cognitive development, language and communication. To Vygotsky play is *imaginative* play or role-play, and is at the heart of Early Childhood education. Children also explore their imagination in contexts such as small-world play, junk-modelling and drawing. They use actions, objects, marks and symbols, assigning alternative meanings to them within the social and cultural contexts of their play.

In this workshop we will explore children's roles as they explore, negotiate and co-construct knowledge together, through several observations and photographs of child-initiated play in a nursery from current research. We will also touch on the adults' role and discuss the very different opportunities and experiences of play children may have in the reception class.
