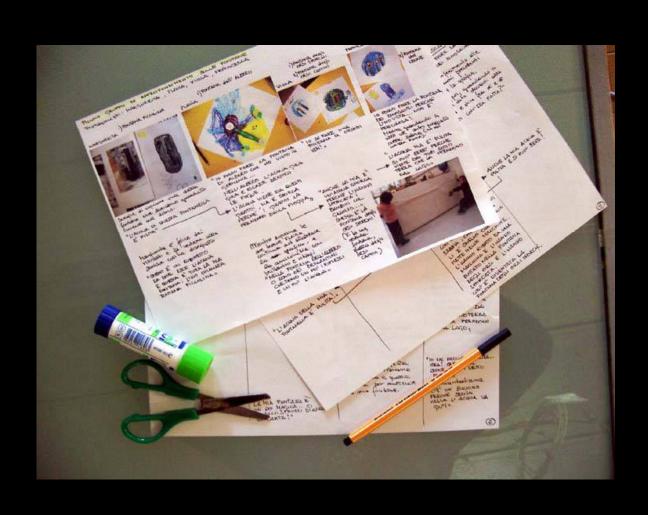
Pedagogical Documentation



What is pedagogical documentation?

Pedagogical documentation is a process which seeks to reveal, understand and make visible the learning of adults and children.

It enables adults and children to find the meaning in what they do, what they encounter and what they experience?

How does this differ from the evidence gathering that is part of our everyday classroom practice?

Documentation as an approach requires adults to be just as curious as children in 'researching children, researching the world'. Having the curiosity to listen and watch will lead us to discover and hypothesise what is going on in the minds of children as they reveal the true levels of their thinking to us.

Andrea Sully

The subject, the main purpose of documentation, is dialogue.

'Documentation is not limited to making visible what already exists: it also makes things exist precisely because it makes them visible and therefore possible.'

Rinaldi, C 2006 (In Dialogue with Reggio – Routledge)

It is not about.....

- Making attractive displays
- Fulfilling assessment criteria
- Analysing child development
- Recording activities

But it encompasses all of these

It is about.....

- Sharing and collecting perspectives
- Professional Dialogue
- Listening to children
- Planning meaningful learning experiences
- Making learning and thinking visible
- The individual in the group

From display to visible thinking

A set of photographs pasted to a board, showing a trip to a farm is a display.

A set of photographs captioned with children's words would still be a display.

The panels need commentary, interpretation and explanation to qualify as documentation

(Negotiated learning Foreman and Fyfe attribution)

Remember.....

There is no 'right or wrong' way to document children's learning.

There is nothing prescriptive about documenting.

We do need experience in listening, interpreting and analysing what we have seen or heard. The only way to gain this experience is to make a start and have a go, resolute with the knowledge that this is research and open to free thinking subjectivity.

Where to begin

We cannot document everything in depth, so we have to be selective, and make choices.

The point is to document a few in depth examples of children learning together rather than the progress of individual children and their interests.

Step 1: Chose something you have observed that is interesting and involves a group of children, and which you think has rich learning potential.

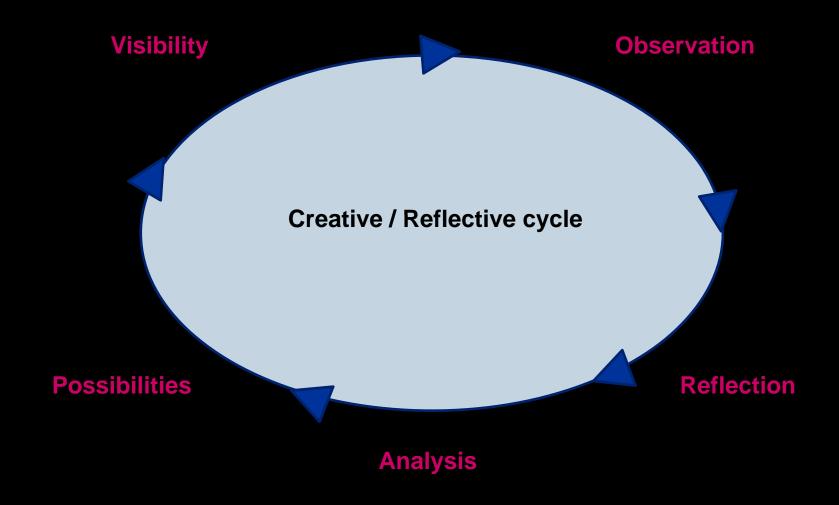
Step 2: Gather evidence about what you have observed (photos, video, children's work, children's words) to share

Step 3: Bring this documentary evidence to the round table to discuss and analyse with colleagues. Identify emerging research questions (i.e. Why is it interesting?) Agree ways to support the emerging interests.

Step 4: Find ways to share the observations, examples of children's work and conversations, as well as the theories and thinking of the educators (displays, books, powerpoints etc)

The process

- Observation: Observing children's learning and thinking processes and gathering evidence of what has been observed to share and analyse with colleagues
- Reflection:- Sharing of observations from different perspectives to build a 3D picture of what is happening
- Analysis and hypothesis:- Developing explanatory theories about why the things you noticed were happening? Why it was important or interesting? Are any underlying themes or questions emerging?
- Possibilities and provocations:- With the above information what can could be offered to support the children's learning support their research and interests in an open way?
- Making learning visible:- Displays of the above to share the learning process, the work of the children and the thinking of the adults in how they chose to support this.



Some examples UK





Circles and Chairs at the Museum

Evjens wanted to re-errorge the acutature to see hore planned to create un-Subplanting schilpform have for

We also proposed to offer the

SCHOOLS to explore Spores,

Yimigher, restongles, holves

and quarters. Arry choice to use the scorves and said to Sereh, task, Toon make

trinigles. Amy spent's long

period of metaned play

ministracting the shopes

We writed the numer to explore the things that MINT'S WHAT IS DESCRIPTAL The chindren were offered a dispositive ramers to record Hour DANK



Tet stolking in a sold Ketherine.

Many of the stalaten liked the atomic circle applyture. The children walked around the edge and Estherine and Ten walking in a circle?



Jessia was very interested in the fessil spiral.



We found squares on the Flaor in the moteum.

Harris, Life, Ketherine and

Sevelet run to the large.

circle printing. This this

one because He reliand, and

said Harrah

The following stoy, we ployed to build an the history interest in crystal and shapes. Yellow group. lesked of Kandreky's pointing and the objitul photo from the museum. The chicken that had the apportunity to credit their den circle pontings:



They got reads) seid Life.





Lack, I con mole said Amy.



Title a triangle! said Lesh





suchs interested the children as much Some of the children have

We were very surprised that

the different chairs and



gip





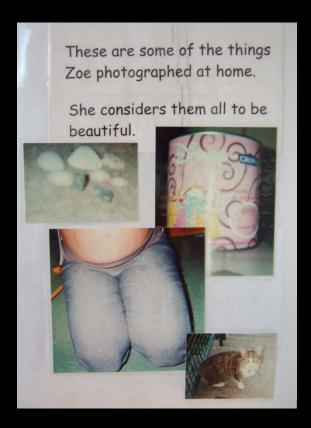
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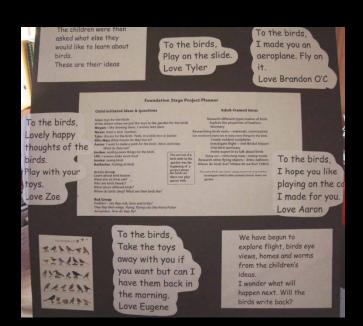




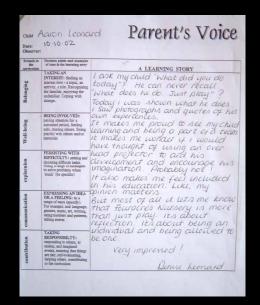








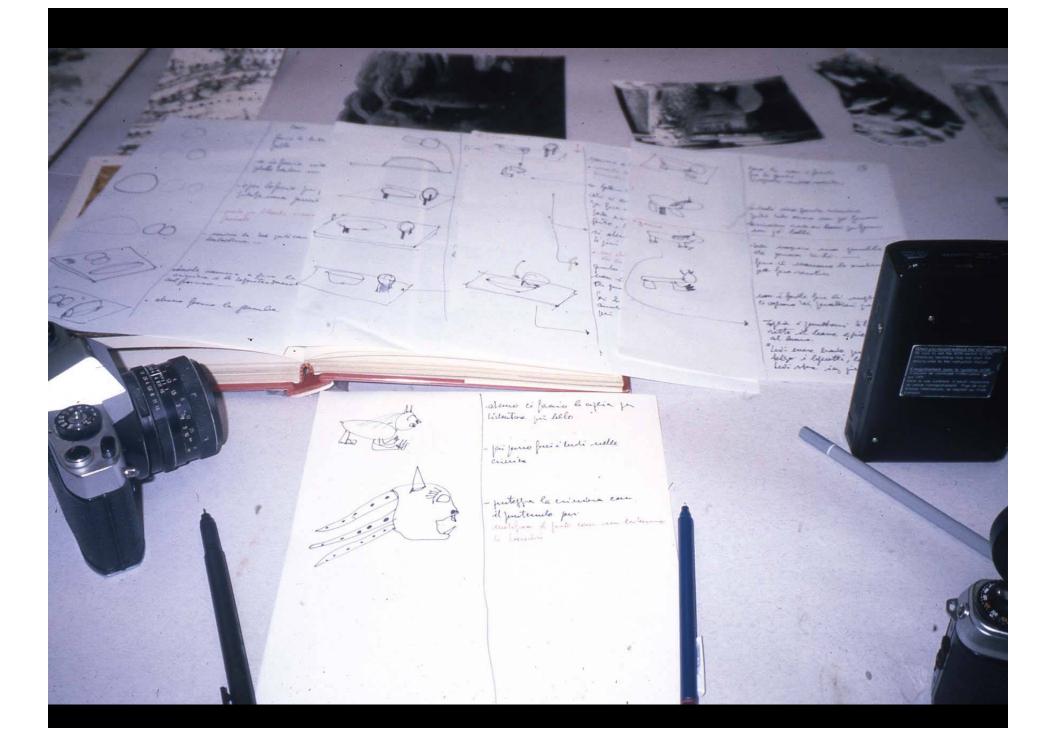
	A Learning Story
TAKING AN INTEREST	I othered Engene the opportunity to come + look at the documentation about the birds, the was cleanly interested + pleased at the
BEING INVOLVED	photos of minself. " tract's me!" He showed in designt. On look Rame! "Engene
PERSISTING WITH DIFFICULTY	Said "nm 1, I made toys" and "me publing up letter for birds" Engene recomed must be
EXPRESSING AN IDEA OR FEELING	had united to the birds with a great dead of accuraty. "I wose the mesage take the tays new but bring "um back later in the moniting"
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY	Engene carried on lotking at the dozumentation. "I think I'M kiss the birds Later" he said Longring. "Tunn's Tyle /Zee / Anon and kartand , the pristre? are about an the things we made to the birds."







Some examples Reggio Emilia











"The flow of quality information through documentation introduces parents to a quality of knowing that tangibly changes their expectations toward the whole school experience ... the system of relationships and participation has in itself a virtual autonomous capacity to educate."

Loris Malaguzzi