



Observing children's play – some starting points

What's going on?

Who are you going to focus on?

Which children?

Did you see how it started?

How are they relating to each other, to their environment, to the adults?

What excites them?

What are they fascinated by / curious about?

What are they scared/courageous about / 'touching the edge' on?

What boundaries are they meeting with?

What can you perceive about the imaginative / narrative elements?

How are they engaging with their environment in their imaginative play?

How do you perceive the characters of these particular children? What are they like?

Are the children taking on character roles? If so, what kind of characters are these?

How might these character roles differ from the children's 'usual' characters?

What 'expressive languages' are the children using? (An expressive language is any way that the child is expressing him/herself e.g. through drawing, dance, song, acting, talking, a facial expression, etc.)

What big themes/ideas/questions might be behind the children's play?

UK reference point for the Reggio Children Network

20 Great North Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PS Tel: 0191 261 7666 Fax: 0191 230 5556

info@sightlines-initiative.com www.sightlines-initiative.com

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