

The Little Room.

Lilli Nielsen writes in her books about active learning for visual impaired children and children with multiple handicaps in addition. She made The Little Room in 1982 as a tool for children to help them to get their own experience through self activity. To contribute to gain early understanding of room which is a basic for orientation later on. For blind children it is not possible to get a visual overview over the surroundings outside the body. So if the child doesn't see its environment it is understandable that the child is not so curious and exploiting about its environment. (terrible English!!)

Therefore she made a little room which can be decorated with...? a lot of different aids.

My experience when I have recommended the little room for children is that when it is used consciously it can be a good tool for the child. Its principles can be adjusted to other daily situations for the child. The tools inside the room which can be hung from the ceiling should always be fun and adjusted to the child needs and developmental scale. This is to establish integration of the different senses and to understand the different objects and positions of the objects. It is important to observe the child in the room during a long period to see what the child choose to do. Is it active towards the "toys". Is it passive? How can we make the child curious towards the room and the things in it?

If a child starts to lie in the little room before it is one years old and the vision status is not yet declared. My experience is to start as early as possible to stimulate the child's vision. I think it is best to do so in natural environment and different child's needs different solutions. When I choose to use The Little Room I often place a light source outside the room to increase the light level inside and to brighten up the things inside the room. Sometimes I see that the child use its vision more active in these situations. Be careful if you try it to check if the light heat up the room. The light must be placed so that the things that the child shall look at should be shone on. Place your self in the little room and try it out so the child does not get light directly into its eyes but get the things inside reflected.

Reference:

Rummet og Jeg`et Lilli Nielsen 1991

Grib og du kan begribe Lilli Nielsen 1994

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