

Image of a Child
Krissa Hamric



A child is a collector. Personal experiences and relationships within their environment make up the content of their collection. The child is capable of using many languages to gather and organize their developing anthology. With appropriate adult support and scaffolding a child is capable of becoming an expert of their world and their limitless ability within it.

My Image of the Child

By: Shane Selden



*A child is a gift of life and love.
Touching hearts and leaving lasting memories.
Only beginning to explore and discover new possibilities.*

“IMAGE OF THE CHILD”
Instruction Sheet, by Professor Carolyn Edwards, UNL

The world is full of images of the children—in advertisements, family photo albums, television shows, artwork, books, and so on. These images indirectly convey messages and concepts that people have about children.

Teachers also have their own inner ideas, their own “image of the child” that lies behind their work with children. Parents and family members have images of children.

Today, right at the beginning of this class, before you have had the chance to do any reading or take part in any classes, we want you to think about *your image of the child*.

Answer: A CHILD IS _____

Just write freely. Don’t censor yourself or try to think about the “right” answer. Instead just imagine yourself 10 years from now working or caring for children in the way you are hoping for.

What is your “image of the child” behind your practice?

What does this child look like?

What does this child want, and need?

What kind of setting is he/she in?

What is the child doing, or learning?

Write a page, and draw a rough sketch to illustrate.

In your small group, share your words and sketch with others. Ask and receive questions that help you draw out your ideas.

After everyone shares, please revise and edit, and add to your original writing.

FOLLOWING THIS CLASS

Turn it in for us to look at. We will schedule a 10-minute meeting with each of you outside of class to give you some comments, and let you clarify and expand. We will help you to find the essence of what you are saying.

Then you can look for an image (photograph, or magazine picture) that goes with your idea. It could be a photograph taken by yourself, or a photo from a family album.

Create a final product that is aesthetically satisfying and communicates your idea in a simple and clear way. Aesthetics are important—they convey your feelings. Turn it in on the date specified in the Course Syllabus.

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