LECTURE 1

PLAY AND THE MODERN WORLD

Dear colleagues,

This semester we will deal with play both from the theoretical and practical point of view. Since preschool teachers work with children and children are the ones who learn and grow only through play, the very notion of play is crutial for this vocation.

Have you ever been trying to define play? Is it a social/linguistic/artistic phenomenon? It seems that the notion of play belongs to all of them. Some scientists believe that all children and adults with child-like heart may have two kind of activities – play and non-play once. Please, read the leaflet with „*play and non-play definitions*“. Can you remember examples of cognitive play / social play or exploratory / rough and tumble / chase games? Are they popular among children today? How do you react when you notice an example of non-play?

„**Through play the child comes to understand the world**.“ How do you understand this definition?

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We have been witnesses of many global, social and historical changes. Children have always been a part of that world. Some scientist say that we may differ between *child structured play* and *adult structured play*. Which one is prevaling today? Why? How do play children in poor, war-involved countries? What does it mean if few branches or cabbage leaves are enough for them to create the whole new better world?

Culture is story we tell ourselves about our way of life and origin. It is spread through literature and games. Do you believe that children from different countries play in a different way? Please, read the leaflet about *multicultural play* and see if you agree with it.

At the end, think about what kind of preschool teacher will you be or you have already become concerning the play of children in your group?

Think about these questions, read the leaflets (play and non play 001, 002, 003 and 004). This is only the begining of your journey in these course where you will direct the way with your attitudes and child like heart. I hope that you will enjoy it.

There is no need to send me answers (for now) ☺

Sincerly yours,

Jelena Spasić