



The Fundamental Sources of Joy

Creating a visual representation

Let's explore being a second plane child (6 – 12 years): the need to discover, to understand, to work together, and to create

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Materials

Chart paper, markers, colour pencils, post it notes

Group size

4 – 6 people

Listen to a story (3 mins)

One of Dr Maria Montessori's powerful ideas that is explored in the second plane is the Fundamental Needs chart. The idea that across time, place, and culture, all humans share certain needs. We may meet them differently, but the need itself is universal. Let's take this idea further and explore the questions: are there fundamental sources of joy? Deep, universal experiences that bring humans not just happiness but true joy? If our needs are universal...could our sources of joy be too?

Individual reflection (3 mins)

Take a moment to reflect. Capture key words, phrases or examples.

1. What is joy? (Is it one thing or many?)
2. When have you experienced deep, meaningful joy?
3. What seems to bring joy to others?

Group exploration (14 mins)

Part 1: Share your ideas + explore the question, "Are there fundamental categories of joy?"

1. Look for patterns and connections
2. Group similar ideas
3. Name emerging categories

Part 2: Create a visual representation of the "fundamental sources of joy." For example:

1. Create a chart
2. Draw a symbol or image
3. Build a web or mind map
4. Represent it through story or play, or
5. Any other way of presenting your findings

Reflection (5 minutes)

What did you discover? Do these sources of joy feel universal? How might this influence our role as educators/parents and the way we prepare environments for children? **And what does joy look like for the second plane child?** Use post it notes to record your reflections and stick on the wall!