

## Emotional space – Home Vs institutionalised space – Kindergarten as a meaningful place for six-year old children

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A child's first space, which constitutes the outset of the child's biography and acquaints the child with the essence of being, is the child's immediately surrounding territory, i.e. the child's family home. Considering the meaningfulness of the "home" concept, it can be said that home means "safety, durability, shelter, housing, a place of one's own, family, family nest, kinship, dynasty, universe, repository of wisdom, hospitability.

Why is it home that is the most frequently exposed subject in a child's drawing? Why is this issue so essential? The natural explanation has to do with the emotional relationship with a given place and with one's meaningful others, the closest persons. The issue of how and to whom a child presents home is quite significant. In psychology literature tests of the types: "my home, my family", "my ideal home", "my dream family", which are tests that check on the child's emotionality and family relationships etc., have been described on numerous occasions by such writers as, among others, H. Krazuze-Sikorska, R. Fleck-Bengert, A. Frydrychowicz, M. Lięża, others.

Home has been a sort of *conventional code*, drawn invariably as a kind of matrix. Interestingly, all over the world children have always drawn a house with a triangular roof.

Recently, however, that code has been subject to change. There have appeared other representations of family home, as a block of flats, as a high-rise. *The conventional code* has thus turned into the meaningful code, an individual code, less frequently encountered. Such a situation may result from the spread of the "block matrix" in books, schoolbooks for children, television cartoons, computer games, as well as in other visual commentaries, with which a child has contact daily. Yet home – no matter what it is presented like in a drawing – remains the child's closest sphere and closest territory. It is due to everything being accepted here, known and giving rise to a sense of security.

Kindergarten, in turn, is an important and meaningful space of the child's world. As a place belonging to the public sphere, it has influence over the child's socialization and prepares that child for being a member of a larger social group. When going to kindergarten, the child undergoes *rite de passage* from the personal sphere (constituted by the family home) to the public sphere (constituted by the kindergarten itself). This transgression is a difficult step to take for the child, as the child then becomes a member of some larger social group, in which certain principles of "being in a group" hold. Most generally speaking, a kindergarten can be defined as a nursing home, i.e. "an enterprise licensed in the taking of professional care over children over the defined period and in places designed and modified specially for these purposes".

This article will include the comparison of two social spaces: home and kindergarten, both of which exert radical influence on the child's socialization and development for the sake of society. Also important will be socialization by meaning others, who are close with the child in these spaces.