

Francesco and the Paper Tube

Protagonist: Francesco (10 months).



1. Francesco, sitting on a sheet of packing paper that has been placed on the floor of the young toddler room, grabs the ends of the paper and tears large strips of it.



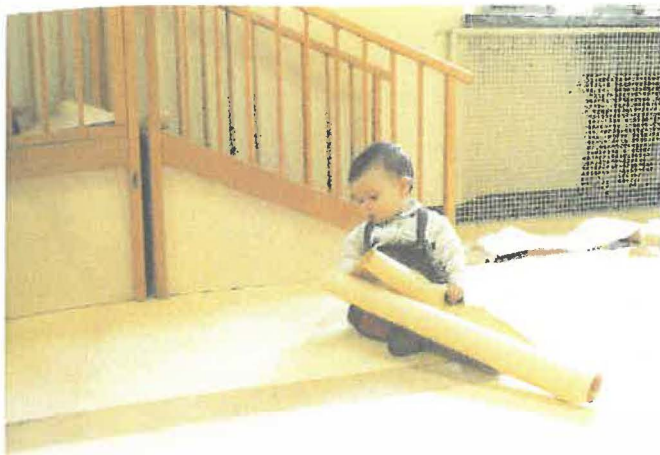
- The torn paper tends to roll up, creating tubes of various sizes. This game of tearing paper seems to interest Francesco for a while, but then he stops. One could think that the child might consider that game finished as he now directs his attention to the markers, placed intentionally by the teachers on the floor nearby; one is black and one is blue. Francesco approaches on all fours...



3. But now, after having picked up the two markers, still on all fours, he goes directly back to the paper tube. He picks it up, tilts it, and inserts first the blue marker,



4. and then inserts the other, the black one. He has a look of determination and seems to predict and enjoy what will happen next. What does this child expect?



5. The two markers are inside the tube. They are not visible anymore.



6. Francesco checks, attentively the two e_nds of the tube. It is as if he is saying: *Where have the markers gone? Why are they not coming out?* The game of placing something small in a larger container open at the ends is probably something the child has experienced before. This situation is probably not new, but the markers do not come out - as if they have been swallowed up by the tube.



7. Francesco looks inside the tube, and by doing so, he creates an incline and the tube returns to his view the two markers.

8. Francesco grabs the markers again and inserts them by keeping the tube tilted as much as possible. Francesco will then experiment w!th this sequence several times as if he wants to verify his new discovery.



The Telephone and the Shoe

Protagonists: Chiara (22 months) and Letizia (21 months).



1. Chiara and Letizia are in a quiet space in the infant-toddler center. They are playing with a regular-sized telephone. (In the lower left corner of the photo we notice that Chiara had previously taken off one of her shoes.)



2. The telephone has great attraction and invites one to reinterpret known or familiar gestures.



3. The play takes a new direction. Chiara takes the phone from Letizia and places it on the floor. Continuing to hold the receiver, she picks up her shoe,



4. and hands it to Letizia,



5. who explores it with attention.



6. While Chiara is still holding the receiver close to her ear, she gestures to Letizia who interprets immediately. The shoe becomes the receiver and the phone dialogue seems very involved.



7. The game continues. Chiara puts her receiver down on the phone and, having discovered the power of her shoe, places it next to her, and decides to try Letizia's,



8. and takes off Letizia's shoe.



9. Will Letizia's shoe transform itself into a phone receiver as did Chiara's shoe?