



Each instrument starts with the cover page

Commentary to the film “Beginning an instrument”

Each instrument starts with the **cover page**. The cover page of each instrument has the same pattern: the thinking child, the slogan “Just a minute... Let me think!” and an illustration representing the content of the instrument, the exercises in the instrument and the title (Orientation in Space I). These elements create the frame for the focused conversation over the page and introduction to the instrument.

We can see the teacher asking questions, allowing answers, keeping the **discussion flowing** until all who wanted to contribute have done so. The many ideas and experiences the students contribute to discussion make them feel that their ideas are valuable and explorative. The role of the cover page is the anticipation, a powerful force in arousing curiosity.

Typical questions are:

What can we see? What does it remind us? What does it mean? What does the expression on the figure’s face mean? What is the model’s hand holding? Why? What arrow is? Why? Where can you meet arrows? Where did you see arrows? ...

The atmosphere is calm and open to everybody. **There is no need to hurry**. The page keeps the students thinking and verbalizing their thoughts, the teacher “mediates” careful observation, attentive listening, precise expression of idea, she also challenges the students and creates conditions for sharing. Children learn from listening and responding to one another’s thoughts. Throughout the lesson we can see the teacher mediates **meaning, intention, and transcendence**, the essential aspects of mediation.

Orientation in Space I.

Spatial orientation is a foundational brain skill and the basis for many higher-level thinking processes. Belonging to “foundational” instruments, the Orientation in Space I instrument addresses the **systems of reference** that permit the localization of objects in space and relation to one another. It deals mainly with the concepts of right/left and front/back, at the beginning in activities with figural elements, by the end with symbolic coding systems in which reliance on own body is reduced and coordination of two or more systems of reference activated. Good articulation of representational space is a basement for rational abstract thinking, relating two elements to each other, comparative behavior, coordinating one’s view with that of another.