

17th EECERA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*The title of the presentation

A study of young children's folktale understanding through an exploration play:
On the relation between emotion and imagination in play

*The type of presentation

Poster

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*A 250-word abstract

The purpose of this study is to clarify a generative process of young children's collective understanding and adults' role in an exploration play. Their story was not a mere fabrication, but a product of co-experience full of emotion and imagination. It was also an activity in which children had been getting a new knowledge and concept. L.S.Vygotsky, who pointed out the significant role of play activity to child development, made several important statements on the developmental relation between emotion and imagination. Over the second half of the 20th century, although a large number of studies have been made on children's play, little attention has been given to the relation. Egan(2005) describes story as an effective tool for understanding the emotional and imaginative aspects of knowledge acquisition. In other words, it is considered

that a story mediates emotion and cognition in understanding. Based on such grounds, this study focused on children's understanding process of the folktale through an exploration play.

The methodology on this study was based on D.B.Elikonin's "formative-experimental method"(1978). We in KODOMO project introduced an exploration play into after-school program of a preschool. The participants consisted of 15 children (4-6 years) and 8 adults. We told children an folktale associated with a local fairy (Korobokgur), and set some clues that might evoke their imagination about it into their everyday life. The children with adults had explored the trace of the fairy in the snowfield excitingly, and deepened their knowledge about the folktale by discussing and reflecting their exploration. The findings indicated that collaborative experience in play activity gave a chance to invoke an emotional and imaginative development of children. It also indicated the important role of adults who facilitate these activities.

*Audiovisual requirements

Nothing

*Four keywords for listing purposes

Emotion and Imagination, Exploration Play, Folktale, Adult's Facilitative Role