

Igniting Awe and Wonder: Re-Imagining our Materials and Spaces in the Natural World

Unlocking Childhood with Mary Hewitt ©

Part 1 Reflection, From Invitations to Provocations in the Natural World:

1.) Let's begin with a simple yet complex question: ***From your perspective, what is “play”?***

2.) More specifically: ***How might a child explain what “play” is?***

3.) A play invitation asks: ***“Even in my busy and very important day, can I let the wonders of life change me?”*** -Mary Oliver, Poet

What is Mary Oliver trying to say here?

Part 2 Reflection, The Influence of Awe & Wonder and Materials:

1.) Now that you've experienced the 'exercise in awe & wonder', what are you noticing about the way you see or *come to know* materials?

Part 3 Reflection, Awe-Inspiring Natural Environments:

1.) What might be some of the educator's values-made-visible in these photos?

2.) Based on these photos, what do the educators believe about children's competencies?

3.) What captured your attention in these photos? What delighted you as you viewed these engaging environments?

4.) What possibilities do you see for your outdoor environments as you reflect on these photos?

**Questions derived directly and inspired by The Thinking Lens © by Deb Curtis:*

https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/_files/docs/echo/ec-resources/session-materials-thinking-lens-1.pdf

Notes: