



PT_Class_SwinggameRope_CreatInqLA

Teacher Education Design Principle + code:	8. Teacher education should enable teachers to design and assess creativity-enabling inquiry-based activities which are child-friendly and include both guided and open inquiries. TE: CreatInqLA
Specific Teacher Outcome(s):	8.1 Teachers should be able to design and assess open-ended learning activities.
Factors linked with:	M: Variet
Type of material (image – interview (int) – classroom extract (class):	Classroom
Originating from:	
Country report :	D4.3 Portugal
Case:	Case 4
Episode:	SwinggameRope
Teacher:	Olivia
Age Group:	5 years
Selected episode present in D4.4 Appendix	Yes



The swing game

The aim of the activity is to build a pendulum (swing game) and explore the factors that affect its motion (movement).

The teacher prepared in advance a set of diverse materials that could be eventually used in the course of the activity. The starting point was a simple string: to every child and the teacher was given a string of equal length. What could be done with such a string hanging in a hand was the first exercise.

They started the activity by exploring the string and making it to swing. After this short exploration phase, children are confronted with specific scientific problems concerning the swing game:

Teacher: If you want to make a swing (*game*), then you need a good swing. What is a good swing?

At the beginning of the activity students weren't fully aware that the foothold of the string would affect its motion. One of the first objects used at the end of the string was a very nice silver paper cut heart: it was too light, and the swing didn't get better with that object.

(...)

Child M: With the plastic bag we hold the oranges fasten to the rope, and there is the pendulum!

Later on, there was the idea of turning down some objects with the pendulum.

So there was a tripod to hang the string from it; plastic bottles to turn down; plastic bags and solid objects to hang at the end of the string; and many other objects that could be used following the children's suggestion (wood block, pieces of fruit, paper cut drawings, raw cotton, etc.). In due course of the activity, a wall and a door lintel were used, after children's suggestion.



A variety of materials



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