



- *We would like to try...*
- *Using museums to link our children's creativity/experimentation with History, Music and Drama*
- *More open ended projects with children*
- *Today's work with our children*
- *Bringing the resources of the school (materials) to the Museum so that children link the two settings in hopefully a positive way*
- *To use the museum as a setting for historical enquiry-making our own questions...*
- *Meeting as a cluster in the museum*

**We were surprised ...**

- *How a small object can reveal so much detail*
- *How varied the responses can be*
- *How agricultural implements can be artistic*
- *How much can be achieved in a small space of time*
- *I can still think 'outside the box!', and given the right environment it isn't difficult and its very enjoyable*
- *How language ( names of the old tools) could be such a fascinating starting point*
- *How little time it takes to make rich and evocative work*

Finally, we explored making our own prompt cubes, completing them with reminders of this session.

We walked around and explored the Museum in pairs, paying attention to its special features and qualities, its points of interest, and then focusing on one object or section that particularly caught our attention.



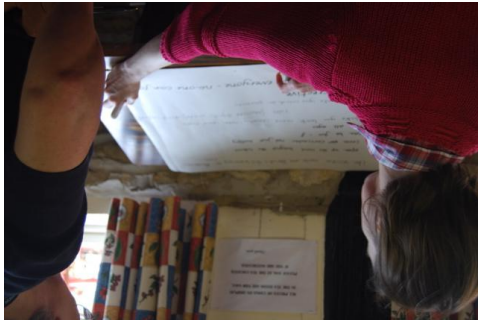
We began with an invitation to use our own curiosity and imagination. We talked about the importance of exploratory play and hands on learning, children as powerful learners, the need to offer generous environments, and ideas of 'less is more' and open ended resources.

*I am interested in what I don't understand*  
 Alison Knowle



**Creative Connections**

**Facilitated by Idit Nathan  
 Ramsey Rural Museum,  
 Cambridgeshire  
 May 20th 2010**



It was appropriate to explore re-labelling, creating trails or narratives, making comments on and/or responses to collection. We discussed attending to the process and the potential for learning that takes place within it.



The invitation was to use the materials provided\* to make a response to the space and your chosen section/ idea/object.

2010-05-25

A Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination session commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council.

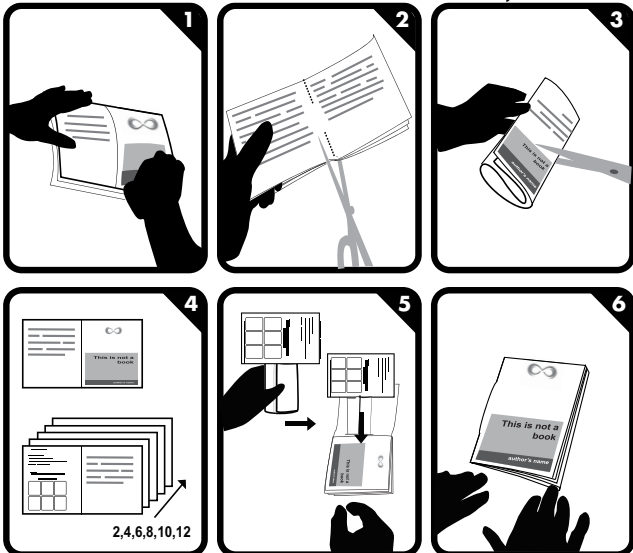
[www.cambridgecandi.org.uk](http://www.cambridgecandi.org.uk)

We listened to Allan Kaprow's words as we washed our hands:

*I began to pay attention to how much this act of brushing my teeth had become routinized, nonconscious behaviour, compared with my first efforts to do it as a child. I began to suspect that 99 percent of my daily life was just as routinized and unnoticed; that my mind was always somewhere else; and that the thousand signals my body was sending me each minute were ignored. I guessed also that most people were like me in this respect<sup>1</sup>.*

We thought about how attending to something alters what is attended to and we considered how to make the familiar unfamiliar and vice versa.

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<sup>1</sup> Allan Kaprow, Art which can't be art (1986), [www.readingbetween.org](http://www.readingbetween.org)



*'Less is more' made beautiful works  
 'Cross curriculum' is not impossible  
 Rich learning is not expensive  
 Asking questions is crucial  
 Poetry of Objects (Cake shredder)*

Idit's prompts were:

\* Palette of materials included: chalk, card, hoops, labels, white tack, string, acetate, paper till rolls, small boxes, gauze, masking and cello-tape, small sticks, small transparent bags, scissors, wire cutters.



- We wondered why ....*
- *We haven't been here before when we are on the doorstep*
  - *We forget to look (and think) from the child's perspective*
  - *We don't ask 'why' more often*
  - *In some areas function has overtaken decorative design*
  - *(Whether) Museums will exist in 100 years time?*
  - *Will we bother to preserve disposable items in the same way?*

Our reflections included:

**This session made us think that learning in museums can...**

- *Open up the mind beyond the literal*
- *(Facilitate learning that is) cross curricular (and) not just history*
- *Be fun*
- *Be for all ages*
- *Make you look more closely*
- *Open your eyes and view familiar objects in different context*
- *Concentrate your mind on process*
- *Be accessible to everyone- no one can fail*

