01 Photo Puzzles

Kit@

> **Let the children explore the kindergarten with a camera. How well do they know their kindergarten?**

In the "Photo Puzzles" project, the children work with a camera. In small groups, they discover their environment, select their own motifs and photograph them independently.

Group one chooses to take photos of some details from the surroundings of a kindergarten: close-up of building blocks, the hand of a doll, a corner of a picture book. Group two then is assigned these details, searches to find out where they come from and photographs the overall picture (i.e. the doll/picture book).

Since at first only a part of the motif is shown and they do not immediately recognise what it is about, the children's natural curiosity is awakened. The project addresses the children's urge to observe and to discover. By creating photo puzzles, the children train their attentiveness and close observation.

> **Preparation**

Prepare the children for the photo project and discuss with them what they have in mind. In order to the children understand what their task is, you can show them an example: a picture depicting a small part of a whole and the corresponding resolution.

Try out the devices you will use for the project yourself before they are used by the children and ensure that everything works. Familiarise yourself with the activity so that you can explain it to the children and respond to their questions. The children should also be allowed to test the devices beforehand.

Age:	3-6 years
Group:	two groups (3-5 children)
Level of difficulty:	● ● ○ ○ ○
Time and effort:	● ● ● ● ○

Materials:

For implementation:

- Tablet, smartphone or digital camera

For follow-up:

- PC or laptop
- Projector and screen
- Printer and laminator

Area of Education:

- Literacy and Communication
- Aesthetic-cultural education
- Emotional and social learning
- Media education

Media pedagogical goals:

- Create photos and use media creatively
- Try out shot types and perspectives
- Experiencing changes or "manipulations" of reality through one's own actions with photos
- Playful media-creative appropriateness of social space and nature
- Dealing with media technology

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Project Implementation

Divide the children into two groups. The first group sets off to look for distinctive objects or persons of the kindergarten and photographs only a part of each. Make sure that each child in the group is given the opportunity to take pictures and to handle the camera. Define in advance the time available to the first group and remind them when the activity ends. We recommend 20-30 minutes, depending on the size of the group.

Then select the pictures together with the children. Use your laptop or PC so that all children have a good view of the photos and the photos are displayed in a sufficiently large format. See which pictures were successful and help the children recognise why other pictures are less suitable (sharpness, detail, etc.). As a result, you can have 5-10 photos from the first group should be selected. Print the selected photos and, if possible, laminate them.

In the next step, the second group is given the photo sections with the task of photographing the "solutions" that is the whole objects. The children search for the corresponding object, of which a part was photographed, and photograph it as a whole. In this group, make sure that all children take at least one photo.

In the second group, too, view the photos on the computer and help the children recognise differences in quality. Then print out the pictures that contain the motifs from the first group and laminate them if possible.

In the class room, all children check whether the second group of children has correctly guessed and matched all their photographed parts.

Postprocessing

Talk to the children later about the puzzle and look at the pictures together. The children can explain again how they took the photos, what they paid particular attention to and what they enjoyed. It is exciting to experience how the children perceived their surroundings while taking pictures.

Tip: If you print and laminate the photos of both groups, they can be used again and again by the children as a memory game.

Tip: Change roles at a later date to repeat this activity and give the chance to each group to select the image sections once and have the others search for the whole objects.

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