03 Photo Collage – My Body!

Children get to know their body with the help of a camera and can name the individual body parts.

In the project "Photo Collage – My Body" the children work with a camera. In small groups they talk about different parts of the body and photograph them independently.

Afterwards, photo collages of individual children are created on which the body parts are grouped.

Dealing with the body and body parts is a good way to combine experiences from real life with digital experiences. The project "My Body" promotes children's awareness of their body in a very active and creative way. When taking the photos of the body (parts), children practise concentration and visual perception, whereas when they create the collage, they need sensitivity, dexterity, and patience.

Preparation

Prepare the children for the project "Photo Collage – My Body" and discuss with them what they have in mind. As an introduction to the topic "Body parts", ask the children a few questions, e.g. How did you get to the ECEC centre today? By car, on your bike, or on foot? Which parts of the body did you use? Eyes, feet, hands, etc.? Or they are asked which body parts are important for eating and why? Hands, nose, mouth, etc.? The children realise that there are different body parts with different functions and get to know them. In the following photo project, children can deepen and consolidate their knowledge in a playful way.

To help the children to better understand their task, you can show them an example. The photo in the middle shows a full-size child. The pictures around it show photos of individual body parts (it doesn't have to be all of them): Here head, arms and legs.
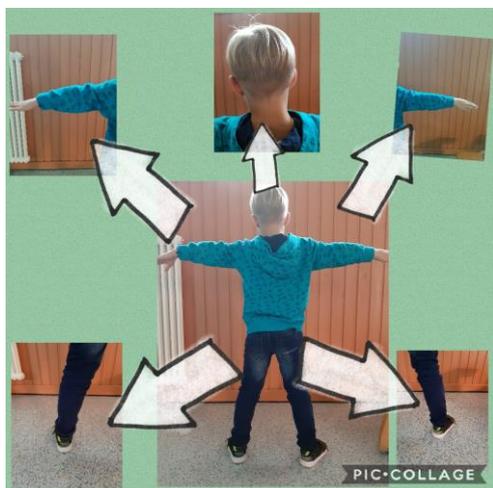
Age: 3-6 years

Group: small groups (3-4 children)

Level of difficulty: ● ● ○ ○ ○

Time and effort: ● ● ● ○ ○

Material:

For implementation:
- Tablet, smartphone or digital camera
- App Pic Collage

For follow-up:
- PC or laptop
- Projector and screen
- Printer

Area of Education:

- Body, movement and health
- Literacy and communication
- Emotional and social learning
- Media education

Media pedagogical goals:

- Create photos and use media creatively
- Try out shot types and perspectives
- Playful media-creative appropriateness of social space and nature
- Dealing with media technology

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Try out the devices (e.g. the tablet) you will use for the "My body" project yourself before they are used by the children and see if everything works. Familiarise yourself with the handling of the devices so that you can explain it to the children. The children should also be allowed to test the devices beforehand.

To gain a deeper understanding of the new media technology, we recommend that you read *„Modul 2 – Basic Knowledge of New Media Technology"* from the interactive *Kit@ manual*.

Project Implementation

Divide the children into small groups. In the small groups, discuss which child will be photographed as a whole and then in body parts. The other children take pictures. Make sure that each child takes at least one picture. There can also be a second run where the roles are switched. First the child is photographed in his full height. Depending on which parts of the body will be focused, from the front or the back.

The body parts are then photographed in close-up mode. You should tell the groups in advance which body parts to photograph, so that at the end a large selection of different body parts can be seen on the various collages. We recommend maximum five body parts photographed per group, so that all the images can be clearly arranged on the collage at the end.

After all groups have taken their photos, view the photos together with the children. Use your laptop, PC or projector and screen. Make sure 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 see why other pictures are less suitable (sharpness, detail, etc.). As a result, each group chooses the most suitable images for their photo collage.

With the help of the "Pic Collage" app, the children create a photo collage similar to the example presented in their small groups. The aim is to clearly identify the parts of the body that have been photographed as part of the overall picture.

After completion, the collages can be printed and placed in the classroom.

Tip: If you print and laminate the photos separately, children can use the photos again and again and match the body photos of the body parts with an overall picture. The result is a lovely game that children can enjoy for a long time.

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Postprocessing

At a later date, talk to the children again about the body part photos they have taken. Let the children tell you which body parts can be seen on the collages and what they are used for in everyday life. The children can explain again how they made the photos, what they paid special attention to and what they enjoyed. It is interesting to hear how the children perceived certain details of their surroundings while taking pictures.

Tip: Modify your photo collage as you like. For example, let the children photograph a building (their ECEC centre) and then its individual parts of the house (roof, window, door, etc.). The exercise also works with trees and plants. First the entire tree is photographed and then its individual parts (trunk, branches, leaves, etc.). There are no limits to your imagination.

In this way you can combine a media educational goal with many of the topics you are currently working on with the children.

Photo credit: Paul Kramp