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Early Childhood Education students' relation to visual arts

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Visual arts education studies (5 ECTS) are part of the Professional Studies in Early Childhood Education (60 ECTS) which gives the qualification to the student as kindergarten teacher. In this research, I am interested what kind of relation towards visual arts the students have got before the studies.

The data consist writings of one student group and it was gathered in spring 2016 in the beginning of the visual arts education course. Students were asked to describe their relation to visual arts, their thoughts about it and the meaning of it to them. They were also asked to write about their memories of visual arts from childhood and about an artist or an artwork that they remembered and admired.

The students' writings describe their memories and experiences from early childhood to early adulthood. Students picture their relation towards visual arts in various occasions, formal and informal; in Finnish day care, early childhood education, pre-school, primary school and art schools but also in free time activities independently and with their friends and families.

This research is a part of our teacher education research. The results can be used to develop the education in teacher education especially in the visual arts education but also the teaching that takes place in early childhood education and in primary schools.