



A Puddle Turning Into A Memory

During a Zoom meeting, my colleague shared an anecdote that happened with her youngest daughter. It was a beautiful sunny day and they decided to go for a bike ride. Since the oldest was ahead, they stopped to wait for the youngest one (Jade, 6). They noticed that Jade was taking a while before joining them. My colleague explained that she turned around to see if her daughter was coming, then she saw her running towards a big puddle. She tells us what went through her mind at that time: "Oh no! She doesn't have her nylon pants; she is going to get all wet and then she is going to get cold."

She told us that she restrained herself from saying no because she noticed an expression of determination through her daughter's eyes. She was even curious to know her interest in running through water.



She shares her assumptions: Will she jump into the puddle to make a big splash? Is she fascinated by the size of the puddle?" It was not that at all. Jade went to stand in the middle of the puddle on a piece of land that was not buried under water. Jade turned around and looked at her mother with a big smile and said, "Look, Mom, I'm on an island." My colleague told us that she was surprised to hear that her daughter knew the word "island".

She asked her, "Jade, why are you saying that you are on an island?" Then Jade said, "It's like at the cottage, there's a lot of islands in the lake." Later, Jade went back on her bike to join them. During the rest of their bike ride, they remembered the beautiful memories of the cottage.

Reflections on The Experience:

- 1) I am questioning myself about what would have happened if Jade wasn't able to get close to the puddle?
- 2) I am wondering how Jade would define an island in her own words.
- 3) I am interrogating myself about the motive that steered Jade to the island when she saw the big puddle?

Take a step back and try to see things from the child's perspective. You will discover a fascinating world and see how remarkable it is the way they think. By carefully observing the children, you will observe that their questioning will be done by itself. This will allow you to get to know them better and understand that they are unique.

- Chantal Labonté, Family Resource Worker