

This twelve year old had to be brought to the playroom by her parents. She cried without restraint and clung to her mother while she pleaded not to go back to school. The parents took turns staying with her so that a conversation could be conducted alone with each of them. Eventually she agreed to sit with the pedotherapist in the playroom without her parents, provided they wait for her near the door. Although the car keys were in her hand, her mother's handbag on her lap and tears flowed, there still was a little hope that she would proceed to play. The play medium of Gerhild von Staabs, which consists of building blocks, farm animals, wild animals, trees, human figures and household items, in due course directed a strong appeal to her. The pedotherapist tried to actualized the essentials of play with and for her. She built a large farmhouse and barnyard. (See figures 8 & 9).

First she placed grandpa and grandma in one room and then in another room papa, mama and a daughter. They are all sitting and are supported by their hands; not one of them is involved in anything. Outside in the barnyard are different farm animals and a boy and girl sit with a little pail under a cow.

In these first play activities, she participated in actualizing the essentials of play and she entered into communication with the pedotherapist by using play to conduct a dialogue (Compare the essentials of play-as-dialoguing, play-as-knowing, play-as-designing). On the basis of this first visit, it is evident that she cannot accept that her grandfather is dead, and thus he lives among them in the world she designs in play. A second deduction is that she cannot accept and carry the responsibility and obligations that the school demands, so she withdraws to the safe, private family circle where she interacts with her parents and where all three of them are passive. This can point to the problematic school situation that they no longer can solve alone.



FIG. 8.

Plaashuis en werf. Oupa en Ouma in een vertrek. Pappa en Mamma met 'n dogtertjie voor hulle.
Buite op die werf twee kinders by 'n koei.

Figure 8. Farmhouse & yard. Grandma & Grandpa in one room. Papa & Mama with daughter in front of them.



FIG. 9.

Om die posisie van die dogtertjie by haar ouers te bepaal.

Figure 9. The position of the daughter with her parents.