PLEASE HELP ME THINK
Thinking with help of *the other*

When trying to solve a problem sitting thinking on my chamber, I often get stuck in the same arrays of thinking. Eventually I will find a solution, but I sense that the problem could have been solved quicker and better. Numerous times I have found a new thought or a new mode of thinking of an old one, in dialogue with other people, literature, a painting et cetera –

*the other*

Partaking of a video material where teacher colleagues engage in discussions about portfolio assessment of children’s work in visual arts (Lindström et al 1999), I learnt that these kind of organized collegial dialogues were means of developing a shared understanding. At times these dialogues also made it possible for the teachers to reach beyond their initial understanding and get new ideas or perspectives. The dialogue being a method to evolve thinking.

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When asking children about what they learn in school they tell me about various school subjects and following social principles. When I asked what they did not learn in school they told me that they never came up with new ideas. Their answers gave me more questions.

How do you recognize a new idea?

How do you get new ideas?

How can you make schoolwork more concerned with children’s own thinking than with the conclusions already drawn?

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE?