

## **Children and theatre between tradition and innovation**

Thesenpapier der Arbeitsgruppe Theater mit Kindern zwischen Tradition und Innovation  
im Rahmen des Welt-Kinder-Theaterfestivals 2002 in Lingen / Ems

[Wissenschaftl. Begleitung: Alisch, Bassenhorst, Kendler, Nickel]

---

### **Statement 1**

Tradition and innovation are no static phenomenons. There is constant interaction going on between them. They depend on the cultural and social context and the duration of the phenomenon.

### **Statement 2**

Experiencing tradition roots the child within the particular system of cultural and social values. The child develops a cultural identity which helps him to build up his own "self-identity".

Tradition without innovation bears the danger of social processes becoming inflexible and paralysed. This keeps the child from developing its individuality. Innovation without tradition, on the other hand, bears the danger of the self being diluted and confusing the child.

### **Statement 3**

Theatre with children can be a tool to help children to experience historical and cultural knowledge as well as social values. The status of tradition and innovation within theatre with children results from the needs and structures of the particular society. Societies which put state and family matters above individual needs consider the imparting of traditions (without including any innovation) as very important. Societies where the development of the individual comes above all consider traditions as less important.

Therefore, within their work, drama teachers have to consider the particular needs of their group when trying to find the right balance between tradition and innovation