

## **Project Aims:**

In the traditional family life of Istanbul, home is the first and the most important place in learning, sharing, respecting and caring for each other. In this small system the child learns the basic knowledge of life. Oda Projesi uses home as a bridge between Gültepe and the Proje4L museum, aiming to be in a home with its known place in the society and pursue its projects more easily and in an acceptable way.

Children mostly live between the school and home. Being in other public places as different ways of perception and understanding, is important for their individuality.

When working with the children from similar schools who come from unprivileged economic conditions, it is important to activate the interaction and livelihood of the spectator and the event, to develop the capacity to listen, feel and see together. *As children are open to different things and change themselves having the knowledge of their backgrounds and their situations, it is important for them knowing about what are the things that makes them as they are.????*

Following the contemporary city culture is important for the improvement of the children's knowledge and their social environs, and for them to become active members of their community and city.

Gültepe is one of the first neighborhoods (originally a shanty-town) that was formed with immigrants from the east and the north of the country. People brought with them their own culture, heritage and way of living. They worked in the factories on the peripheries of the neighborhood. They used the city as their needs shaped it, without integrating but living with it, and keeping their traditions. Hence, the gap got bigger between classes and ways of living. Oda Projesi operates in this gap trying to make connections, sharing knowledge and life styles. It tries to help people listen and understand each other not by force, but by their own volition.

**Working with the mothers** is a critical aspect of the program. In the formation of the child, the mother is the responsible one, and the child spends most of his/her time with her. While doing projects with children, letting mothers to be involved in them will be a different experience and be more efficient for the children. As the mothers mostly do not work but spend time at home and have restricted social life; knowing

what is going on with their children and trying to grow with them will be the start of a different understanding of life.

Oda Projesi, as in the past, aims to integrate within its programs, educators, artists and people from different disciplines to bridge the gap between fields and work in cohesion.

Oda Projesi transforms the museum into an entertaining place for the children with education. Education also means a processual and through obliteration of the child-like in people. A goal is to sustain an element of surprise, of change, to bring down as well as to construct in adulthood as well.

The children will have time to entertain, to learn, to rest and to listen to themselves in the museum. They will develop commonalities and responsibilities, approach and understand life through art.

Children will shed their daily routines and discover a new mental space. New modes of education will be charted:  
to exchange identities  
to change places with the children  
to create new voids between time and spaces.

### **Principle Activities and Timetable:**

#### Monthly:

1. Organizing interactive exhibitions with the neighbours and the children in the Oda Projesi space in Gültepe. Using art as a way of language and create its own life.
2. Once in a month in the Proje 4L museum, students will participate in artist-led workshops. How does a person whom we call an artist establish a relationship with children? What is the social responsibility of the artist? Students will become closely engaged with the exhibitions by discussions on themes, techniques and contemporary art.

#### Weekly:

1. One day a week; going to other museums, seeing other things and looking at them as the memory of humans. Visiting exhibitions, libraries and making neighbourhood tours to know where we live in. In these tours using streets as places to paint.
2. One day a week, working with children on museums, museums in history, their concepts and their use: how would you build your own museum? What would be an ideal museum for them?

3. One day a week joining the classes of children in different schools informing them about the Oda Projesi and expanding the project to several primary schools in Gultepe neighborhood. It is hoped that this will become a seed-bed for future teacher training programs.

#### Bi-weekly

1. Proje 4L museum tours by the director of the Museum. A continuous program is essential to sustain the interaction that has occurred between the students, the neighborhood, Oda Projesi and Proje 4L.
2. Meetings on art in Turkey designed to be evolved specially with the children. How would they reimagine it and what are their impression of it? Organizing discussion groups from children thinking on what is to be a man, a woman, a child, an old person, a handicapped person: what is to be an individual?
3. Organizing home visits with the mothers, joining their tea parties and cooking with them. Using Oda Projesi location and neighbor's homes, getting to know more of their life by sharing.