

A Source of Shadow

Jan 31st, 2005



As follow-up to an earlier exploration I brought in a home made shadow screen. Joshua age 2.9 years tentatively participates from the side as Ryan and Andrew who are much older experiment with shapes from behind the screen. Here he places his hand on the sunny side of the screen and looks at the resulting shadow on the other side.



When Ryan discards the wire spiral shape, Joshua quickly picks it up and employs it. At far left we can see Joshua looking at both the wire and the shadow it forms on the sunny side. The photo on the right shows Joshua examining the shadow on the dark side.



Joshua now has enough information to form and test a theory. He holds the wire on the dark side of the screen then checks the sunny side to see if a shadow is present. We can assume that he expected to see a shadow as one appeared in his earlier attempts.

We are seeing Joshua make knowledge for himself. By following up with him, asking about his experiences with shadows, confirming what it is he thinks is happening and retrying his experiment he can build on this knowledge.