

INTRODUCTION

All the four primary schools in the catchment area for the Sheerness Sure Start project were contacted at the end of April with a view to arranging an in-school session which would serve to i) raise awareness in the local schools about the Sure Start project ii) introduce pupils to 'architecture and design' in the context of a new building being designed in their locality iii) provide an opportunity for the pupils to prepare some drawings which could be displayed at the Architects' Ideas Day being held on 23 May



FORMAT

Due to constraints of SATS tests in the schools and availability of Architect-in-education, one of the sessions was held on 7 May (St Edwards RCPSchool) with a view to using it as a trial run. The other three sessions were held the day before the Ideas Day, allowing about an hour in each school (Rose Street, West Minster and Richmond) Each session followed the same sequence as outlined below:

- Intro- what does an architect do? "Designs buildings"
- What does the Architecture Centre do? "Works at the early stages of designing buildings- brief development"
- What kinds of information do you need before you can start designing a building? (taking pupils through the 'brief development process' via the scenario of someone asking me to design them a house- what do I need to know from the client? How many in family, what ages, where is the site, in a town, in the country, how big, surrounded by, what kind of taste does the client have- likes modern, contemporary things, likes old fashioned things, how much money has he got to spend on this house etc)
- What does the outside of a building tell us about what happens inside it? Hand out the colour images of various different buildings (all selected to be unusual shapes etc to stimulate pupils' ideas about what buildings might look like) and get the pupils to say what they think the building is

- Relating this 'brief development process' to the Sure Start project, and thinking about what buildings look like, and what happens inside them- get the pupils, who are not far away from being 2-3 year olds, to input by thinking about what a new Sure Start building might look like etc from a young person's perspective
- Pupils spend 30 mins or so doing a picture of what they think a Sure Start building might look like, either from inside or outside



EVALUATION

Each school was invited to visit the Architects' Ideas Day, but only the 2 schools within walking distance were able to (Rose Street and St Edwards). Such a visit provided the opportunity for pupils to talk to the architects, see their drawings on display, do some sketches or make plasticine models with the architects.



The drawings produced by the pupils were displayed at the Architects' Ideas Day, and drew much favourable comment from those attending.

A brief evaluation form was sent to each school to get feedback to help shape further work in schools.

