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Children's map skill building through the eco-map making activities

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The environmental map made from two or more joint work is called "eco-map". It is a map where a familiar environment and energy, etc. are made a theme. Three meanings are put in the word eco-map. "e" of eco means environment and energy. "co" of eco means collaboration. The map exhibitions of eco-map have been held several times. The environmental map was made by various themes. In some maps, geographic information system (GIS) was skillfully used. In these maps, various research procedures and the techniques are used. For instance, there is a work that clarifies that the transformation of the region is related to the change in the number of utility poles. The distribution of the utility pole was expressed on the transparence sheet clarified the regional change. It is an unique technique of map expression. There is a work that examines the regional change through the distribution pattern of the nest of swallow. There was a swallow's nest in the area that person lived, but the population decreased area where the number of vacant houses increased lost of the swallow's nest. It indicate the importance of the map that was expressed the data with adequate way of map expression. With what cartography skill is such a map-making connected? First of all, the skill that clarifies the investigated purpose can be acquired. Moreover, they understand that the adequate data is necessary for the purpose that they want to clarify. They will take the skill that selects and creates the map expression according to their purpose. Recently, GIS comes into wide use, and a variety of map expressions are packaged, and there are few chances to consider the expression technique deeply. The map should be drawn according to the research purposes. It might be important to offer the experience for children to draw a map with my purpose.

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