Art of portraiture

What do you think? – Unicef
Elisabeth De Schauwer – Ghent University
What do you think? - Unicef

• Report on children’s rights
• Questionnaire
• Most vulnerable children?
• Reframe the question
Portraiture

• Who is that child?
• Several contexts
• Start from the perspective of the youngster
• Be creative
• Together with people who love the child and/of know him/her well
Ferguson (2000)

The narratives of others in the lives of severely disabled individuals are critical to the formation of their identities.
Who am I?

- Abilities are central – very ordinary things
- Close family is ‘trained’ in: do not underestimate him/her.
- Paradox between age-inappropriate and age-appropriate activities
- Importance of response to humour
Making choices?!

- Very little or limited choices
- Ignore learning process of making choice
Learning

• Big variety in programs – often segregated
• A lot of ‘empty’ time
• Importance of informal learning
• Many possibilities in leisure time
• Expanding the network <=> falling back on family members
• Active youngsters
Support

• Very intensive support needs – permanent availability
• ‘Structure’ is key word
• Lots of professionals
• Family makes big difference
Future?!

• Same goals in life – protected work and living environment
• Rooted future plan
• Based on vulnerability and deficits
• Missing information and creativity