

## Notes to the Future

When making the different drawings, be sure to make them simple objects. They must be in black and white and don't try to put excessive details. Simple line drawings work the best. Be sure to have at least three different drawings in case some people don't recognize a few of them. Generally, if you give the viewers hints as to what the picture is, they will suddenly be able to see the image. When doing Exploratorio for the kids, use objects that would be recognizable to them, like cartoon characters. When showing the dot drawings to the audience, start by holding the picture close up to their face, then gradually bringing it farther and farther away, so that the audience's brains can focus on the picture. Also, have a tracing light available to make better drawings for yourself and your audience. Be sure to be friendly and approach people as they come into your station. A lot of the kids and parents are shy, so you may have to get them involved and excited about their project. If you see someone casually observing the dots, go up to them and explain the experiment. Although this specific experiment is not hands-on and may not seem exciting, you can still make it cool by explaining how the brain works and why shapes are more recognizable at a distance. This is supposed to be fun...so enjoy yourself and have fun with all your visitors!

With children: Be very loud and demonstrative. Grab their attention by asking questions. Perhaps have a partner ask you loudly "Say (insert name here), what's that picture?" Then go on to explain it. An option is to draw on the walls with charcoal or crayon as the kids are coming in. They will be intrigued by what you are doing.

With adults: Don't bother them if they seem to be heading to other classrooms. They will get mad. But if they are going into B8, feel free to act welcoming and excited. Parents will get a kick out of your enthusiasm if you do it right, and will be drawn into your exhibit.

Make large posters to hang on the wall. Do not do this at the last minute: making the poster with a grid takes a very long time. Also, do not use anything out of the ordinary as a dot, unless the entire picture is made of it. For instance, it is not a good idea to use an Oreo cookie as a dot, because kids will constantly ask "Why did you use an Oreo?" and will not let it go. But if you constructed an entire picture out of some household objects (seashells, Oreos, pieces of paper, paper clips, etc.) that would be impressive.