

S.O.S 4LOVE PROJECT

4.QUALITY EDUCATION

REPORT

My name is Tourptsoglou Maria,i'm a teacher in a primary school, Greek School of Bucharest Athena. The report has been completed for me and my students who are between 7 and 10 years old.

a. I noticed that we need to outsource their thoughts, their concerns. They want more and more to discuss. Children are like sponges that absorb any stimulus given to them, whether this is positive or negative.

b. Observing the current way of education in schools, I understand that the system is so obsolete and committed to give students some insight in a way so persistent and non-creative. Imagination is neither encouraged nor developed, therefore children cannot express their talents and skills.

c. Through school the student has to acquire an amazing ability (the admirable ability of critical thinking, of gathering information, of source evolution)

d. To focus on Greek language, a language that is admired, a language that offers the opportunity to share experiences. Using this language, one can say everything. The point is to invest in etymology; if students see etymology as a game they will love studying (that) language. If children love their language, they love their country. If they love their country, they love their traditions. If they acquire traditions and sensitivities alongside their own country, they will learn to respect the other countries. This love will accompany children both outside and within borders, therefore they will learn to respect the fellow men.

e. Nowadays, to shape characters and personalities is just as important as giving knowledge. Knowledge has reached such a level where traditional games and traditional ways of teaching are increasingly being replaced by computers and new technologies. Well, we don't miss knowledge, but wisdom. Wisdom means

acquiring moral values, to discover what makes me happy. I teach the value of my fellow men and the value of nature.

f. School must stop providing only knowledge and plenty of information, but cultivate in our children hearts ideals, principles and quality. Quality is not a function of quantity. We don't need much information, but quality information. Quality is hidden within simplicity. Quality has a dynamic. As Aristotle said: "Educating the mind without educating the hearts is no education at all."

Education in school needs some changes and teachers are in position to identify the systems weaknesses and to offer innovative solutions. We suggest you some alternative methods of teaching that we were encouraged to apply in our school. These methods have a good impact and truly useful to attract students' attention and interest.

STEP 1

Homework and music. In after-school program students do their homework and at the same time they listen to good music. We noticed that they are more focused during classes and finish their exercises in less time than usual. Also they learn about musicians and musical instruments (Ross Daly, Vaggelis Papathanasiou, Stamatis Spanoudakis, Evanthia Reboutsika, Manolis Chatzidakis, e.t.c).

Spelling and teaching the alphabet become more interactive, and it's almost like playing games, educational games.

STEP 2

We have decided to have a different, entertaining cross-cultural lesson, so twice a week, for one hour, teachers talk with students and listen to their concerns, difficulties, successes, failures or joys.

- ❖ Connection with natural world, especially connection with soil. We decided to plant flowers and to take care of our school garden. Students loved the feel and the fresh smell of soil.
- ❖ we want to inspire students to embrace their origins, so we learned about moral customs and traditional from their homelands in Greece. For

example,many students talked about traditional music and dance,festivals and food.

- ❖ When it comes to empathy we want students to learn how to step in someone else's shoes and to understand and accept diversity.In this respect we decided to contact Greek sign language center K.E.N. Γ in Thessaloniki and through a skype call,they made possible for our students to attend a short conversation between deaf people.Finally we learned some greetings in sign language.

To sum up,teachers should bear in their mind what Maria Montessori claimed: <<If the child cannot learn the way we teach him,then we have to teach the way he can can learn>>.

Quality Education means:

In my school I like to:

- Joy (to smile, to be careless)
- Creation (to have free time for traveling by my mind and to create)
- Communication (to talk with my classmates and to share news)
- Movement (to play football and to dance)
- Nature (to plant flowers and to take care of them)
- Knowledge (to watch the world around us and to find out what I like and what suits me)
- Expression (to express my thoughts through my paintings, to do my lessons by listening to music)
- Empathy (to put myself in someone else's place/shoes and to help that person)
- Culture/civilization (to learn how to love my country and my tradition, but also to learn to respect the customs of other countries).