

Parents Edu



THE PARENTS' ROLE IN
THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL
EDUCATION



PaRENTSEdU

The Parents' Role in the out-of-school Education of their children



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



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Project number: 2017-1-PL01-KA204-038295

This project has been funded with the support from the European Union. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the European Commission or Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji – National Agency of Erasmus+ in Poland cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein."



Additional activities **in school**

4. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

a) Extracurricular activities in school

Extracurricular activities in school are those outside the normal curriculum of school education, performed by students. Such activities are generally voluntary (as opposed to mandatory), social, philanthropic, while sometimes they can aim at strengthening and/or widening the curricular competencies.

Advantages:

- Keep students busy,
- Give students the chance to explore their interests,
- Help teach students the important trait of being responsible,
- Increase the chance for students to be accepted in a particular university.

Disadvantages:

- Extra expenses in the schedule (child's timetable is filled in with a number of classes that do not leave space for anything else),
- Extra pressure on the students,
- Put learning at risk due to tiredness.

* Example from Macedonia

Very often teachers are trying to include their students/pupils in different after school activities such as sports, hobbies, math competition etc.

Sports – Teachers of sports are organizing competitions in different disciplines such as: Football, Basketball, Handball, Volleyball, table tennis. The teacher always is asking the pupils if they want to have a competition with other schools, so they start preparation. At first the teacher selects the best players, make a team depends on the

sport and later he starts to train with them. In the main time other schools are doing the same. At some point they come up with idea to make a competition inside the municipality which in this case the municipality helps the teachers to organize and give some kind of gift for winners. This is happening very often in primary and secondary schools.

Hobbies – In this case pupils are those who are asking the teachers to do extra activities related to their hobbies. There is not a specific group or club where you could join and you can share your hobby, everything is individually made. One opportunity for those who wants to share their hobby with others is when the day of the school is (date where the school started working). We do celebrate it with different kind of activities and usually pupils show their hobbies here.

Math Competition – Each year there is a math competition called **Mathematical Kangaroo** (also known as **International Mathematical Kangaroo**) so teachers are selecting the best pupils in math, training them after school each week and later there is a selection criteria for those who will go further in the competition.

Generally, a big impact have organization's here. Teachers are in contact with organization and those who need pupils/students for any kind of activity teachers suggest them to go and get involved in it.

Aims:

- Make pupils more open minded and creative,
- Meet pupils with other pupils from other schools,
- Make them ready for further steps in their life,
- Make them be competitive in future and especially in working place,
- Find the talents inside the groups.

Analysis of legal forms of out-of-school education in partner countries

Poland

Extracurricular activities – classes taking place in or outside of the school that are not part of the compulsory school curriculum and are of an optional nature. There are different types of classes: to prepare for exams, to acquire additional knowledge in issues of interest to students, to learn foreign languages, etc. The purpose of organizing extracurricular activities is to arouse and develop the interests of students.

Portugal

Each School proposes each year the Educative plan by Pedagogical council to School Council which approves it. This council is composed with representatives of the civil society, local authority, teachers, Student association and Parents association among others. This plan proposes all extracurricular activities in school or provide by school.

In primary Schools there are AEC - Extracurricular activities for those interested on it 2 hours a day.

Spain

Each student is free to join these courses.

Macedonia

In rare cases teachers provide extra lessons to the pupils (Maths teachers usually).

France

It is a time of activities organized and taken care by the municipality in continuation of the day of class. These activities aim at favouring the access of all the children to the cultural, artistic, sports practices, etc.

These times of extracurricular activities should allow the children to discover diverse manual or intellectual activities. It is about a discovery or about a raising awareness of a practice as the dance, the plastic arts, the theatre, the music, the badminton, the gardening, etc.

Turkey

At the beginning of the year, a plan is made to arrange all the extracurricular activities in the school. The limitations are stated in the law and also schools act according to their own conditions; for example in order to open a chess class there must be a teacher in the school who has a certificate entitling them to teach chess.

Romania

They may be carried out during the school year and on the basis of the planning remaining at the decision of each educational establishment, according to the order of the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research on the structure of the school year valid for the respective school year.

b) After school activities provided by teachers

Extracurricular activities in school (additional lessons provided by teachers)

Usually we know that some students are good in some subjects and not so good in others subjects. Because of this teachers are providing additional lessons for free after school or when they are free.

We do have many cases where parents are asking the teachers to give their kids additional lessons after school so they can learn and be updated with everyday lessons.

These additional lessons mostly of the time are math lessons and pupils coming from our country are bad in math. But not only also there are additional lessons in languages, science subjects and some social subjects.

It is very common for teachers to hold additional lessons before the exams. They practice past exams, exams that teacher has have in the previous year and make them ready for the new exam.

Objectives of these additional lessons:

- Help pupils with their difficulties,

- Try to make the subject easier for them and understandable,
- Give to pupils more so they can receive more (regarding the knowledge).

Analysis of legal forms of out-of-school education in partner countries

Poland

In Poland there are many different after school activities provided by teachers at schools – the type of activity usually depends on pupils' needs and also teachers' interests.

Portugal

Parents associations in each school or/and local authorities providing After schools activities as a Help to family because they stay till later hours according they labour hours.

Macedonia

Teachers of sports and music usually provide extra lessons for their pupils or high school students (for example: Teachers of sport usually make small football teams so they will play with other teams or schools).

France

For teenagers in middle school: the national union sport school (UNSS) is the French federation of sport. Multisport, is open to all the young schoolchildren on Wednesdays. Professors organize different clubs in lunch time.

Turkey

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Romania

All these extracurricular activities can be done in partnership with students, parents, institutions, non-governmental organizations and / or economic operators.

I. The "Other way to make school" national program has a duration of 5 consecutive working days during the school year and can be run on the basis of a planning that remains at the decision of each school according to the order of the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research on the Structure of the School Year, the respective school year. (OMENCS No 5034/29.08.2016)

II: The "School after School" program: (1) Educational establishments may, by decision of the board of directors, extend their activities with pupils after school hours through "School after School" programs. (2) In partnership with local public authorities and parents' associations, the "School after School" program offers educational, recreational, leisure time activities to enhance acquired or accelerated learning skills as well as remedial learning activities. Wherever possible, partnership can be achieved with non-governmental organizations with competencies in the field. (3) "School after School" programs shall be organized on the basis of a methodology approved by order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sport. (4) The state may finance the "School after School" program for children and pupils in disadvantaged groups, according to the law." (Article 58, Nation Education No 1/2011). More information in OMECTS No 5349/7.09.2011.

III. Extracurricular activities carried out during the school year and may be carried out on the basis of the planning remaining at the decision of each educational establishment, according to the order of the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research on the structure of the school year valid for the respective school year.

IV. Other extracurricular activities occurring during the school year with the approval of school leadership.

c) After school activities provided by volunteers

There are many ways to organize after school activities provided by volunteers. It can be as well one-time meeting with a specialist ("guest speaker") organized as an extra-curriculum activity, or a series of meetings, workshops and discussions on various topics, such as ecology, entrepreneurship, finances etc. Students can also get a chance to attend workplace activities, such as job shadowing. There are also many attractive initiatives organized in cultural institutions, by religious communities, day care centers, NGOs and municipal authorities. Very interesting example of activities provided by volunteers is also "corporate volunteering" organized for pupils in schools¹.

Benefits:

- An opportunity for pupils to improve their professional skills, mostly through learning-by-doing and lessons which provide more detailed knowledge of the subject,
- Pupils essentially get a glimpse into the everyday life of the speaker/volunteer, which they probably cannot get anywhere else. Another added benefit is the link that students get between what they learn in their textbooks and what they learn from the volunteer,
- Shaping the students' initiative and entrepreneurial attitudes,
- Students can get inspired by successful people,

¹"Corporate Volunteering" is "the strategy linked to the Corporate Social Responsibility" consisting of "voluntary activities and personal commitment made by employees in an organized and on an informal manner, unpaid, and for the benefit of other individual's framework.

- Many programs/activities allow students to develop life and soft skills (like cooperation, communication, team working) and to increase their self-esteem and their feeling of self-worth and usefulness,
- Students with educational difficulties can get a chance for a supportive relationship with a volunteer, by systematic one to one meetings,
- If parents will be involved in this activity they can gain a better understanding of their children's school life, new useful skills and satisfaction.

If you, as a parent, are interested in organizing such an activity for your child, you should take this into consideration:

- Check if this kind of practice is already working in your child's school. Maybe a teacher invites "guest speakers", parents or other specialists to the school?
- There are also many organizations (very often linked to corporations) which cooperate with schools and provide this type of activity, for example, Capgemini, The Economic Information Office (TAT) in Finland, Fundación Princesa de Girona (FPdG), etc.
- Maybe you are the person, who can get involved in your child's education and volunteer? Think, if you have anything to share, maybe your professional experience, maybe a passion and knowledge about ecology? Maybe even there is a chance to invite a student/group of students to your workplace and show them how everyday work life looks like? Maybe other parents from the school also will be ready to get involved?
- Take a look at your contacts, maybe you already know fascinating people who like to share their knowledge? Both volunteer and a child can benefit from this experience.
- If you are a low-income parent or your child has educational difficulties you can probably find many supportive initiatives dedicated to your child: find out what

offers daycare centre near to you or initiatives such as Akademia Przyszłości², which involve volunteers work.

Analysis of legal forms of out-of-school education in partner countries

Poland

It is possible for a teacher to invite a specialist for a lesson of his/her subject or for an additional lesson. It is also, for example, popular to invite students graduated from high school, who are university students now, to tell pupils about their experiences.

Portugal

Civil society organizations provide pupil and student support in some school contents or helping to do the home work during the school year. This facility is done by volunteers.

France

In second degree, the institution invites their students graduated from high school who are in university now to present their university and testify to their studies. In order to help pupils to think about what they want to do after graduating.

In primary and second degree, volunteers can help pupils to learn differently and understand better the lessons.

Turkey

These activities can be arranged according to demand, but again there are some condition; at least 10 students is necessary in order to arrange such an activity, special permit should be received from the Local Directorate of National Education.

² Akademia Przyszłości – it's a project coordinated by Wiosna Foundation in many schools in Poland. A child with learning difficulties gets a chance to build a supportive relationship with a tutor (a volunteer). They meet once a week to learn or just spend time together. There is also an offer of various events, such as visits to museums, theatres etc. Find out more: <https://akademiaprzyszlosci.org.pl/o-akademii>

Romania

They can be done only with the approval of school leadership.

d) Other type of activities in schools

“Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand.” — Chinese proverb

What is Project - Based Learning?

“Project Based Learning, or PBL, is an instructional approach built upon learning activities and real tasks that have brought challenges for students to solve”. It is usually done by groups of students who work as a team to achieve a common goal. The tasks could be: solving give problems, participating in simulations, conducting case studies, designing case studies on different areas of science. A teacher here is a tutor who can give advice or guidelines and gives assessment after the project is finished, but he or she does not give a certain “package of knowledge” to the students. They have to find the needed information and data on their won, using multiple sources. Besides, they gain such skills as: communication, presentation, organization, time management, research, inquiry, self-assessment, reflection, team working, leadership and critical thinking, etc.

Why is it worth to implement PBL? It:

- Puts students/pupils in a position to use the knowledge that they get,
- Effective in helping students/pupils understand, apply, and retain information,
- Can give students/pupils an opportunity to work with professional experts who enrich and support the teachers/parents knowledge and how it connects to the real world,
- Can be more effective than traditional instruction, and increase academic achievement,

- Benefits include building skills such as critical thinking, communication and collaboration,
- Students/pupils who work on projects show increased motivation and engagement in their studies”.

Advantages:

- encourages students to discuss,
- opportunity to use differentiated instruction approaches,
- can increase student’s engagement – it can be an interesting break from normal lessons and common exercises,
- helps students develop skills that are useful in the real world,
- Improves teamwork and interpersonal skills.

Disadvantages:

- there is a possibility that students will perform poorer on tests – (it is because many tests reward fact-based learning with multiple choice and short answer questions, not skills related to collaboration and justifying reasoning),
- some may feel disengaged as a result of not being ready to handle this type of exercise for a number of reasons (immaturity, unfamiliarity, lack of prerequisite knowledge),
- time-consuming assessment.

Tips for parents regarding PBL of their children:

Do not worry that your child would learn less through project than in a traditional classroom. Actually, s/he will not only find the information on a certain area of inquiry, but also gain a lot of transversal skills that will equip her/him for facing the challenges of today’s world. “The top skill sets for the future require agency, adaptability, problem-

solving, teamwork and communication– all prominent features of PBL. Educational technology is another integral part of PBL, and this integration allows students to work with the very tools of the future while digital access sets the stage for cross-cultural examination and communication”³.

Be supportive and show that you are interested in your child’s school assignment. Try to motivate a child to team work, efficient planning and managing their time, efficient search and selection of resources and data. Listen to the project’s presentation before it is given in the classroom and give feedback – this will help your child gain confidence to present the project in front of the classroom and an overview how to improve the presentation.

After the project is concluded by your child (in cooperation with her/his school mates), again express your interest. This will also help your child to reflect on the outcomes of her/his learning. Ask questions like: “What did you find easy? What was most challenging? What did you enjoy the most? (...) It is also a great idea to find opportunities for your child to share what they have just learned and accomplished with friends and family members. It will serve as another way for your child to reflect on their project, and the well-earned chance to brag a little is a great way to build confidence”.

You can initiate a project at home! This does not have to be related to the school work. Identify a problem or a need which is close to the real problems your child faces in everyday life. “Pay attention to the things your child expresses interest in, the questions they come to you with, the frustrations you watch them go through, and the activities that really make them light up”⁴. Have the child produce something concrete. Here are some examples⁵:

³ <https://www.gettingsmart.com/2017/09/what-parents-need-to-know-about-project-based-learning/>.

⁴ Ibidem.

⁵ Ibidem.

- “Have your child take over as family chef for a week. They can start by finding dinner recipes, and making a grocery list on their own. Then, do the shopping, and prepare the meals together, letting your child take the lead while teaching them about healthy, balanced eating. Be sure to take pictures of your week of family feasts!
- If your child does some neighborhood lawn-mowing or babysitting, have them take their enterprise to the next level (along with their earning potential!). Ask them to do the research to create a formal business plan and some simple promotional materials like flyers and business cards. Encourage them to get the word out by posting advertising for their new business around your community (...).
- In addition, of course, if you have a budding innovator on your hands, encourage them to start bringing their big ideas to life! Look to these child inventors for inspiration—each of their creations was born out of a simple need they recognized and took upon themselves to fill!”

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Spain

Computering, meals provision (breakfast, lunch and/or snack) and any other activity with the express permission from the Directorate of Education of the Region.

France

«Green Classroom» is a stay which can go of a few days to a few weeks to the campaign or a thematic (sea, farm, mountain....). This travel is without their parents. The trip is supervised by their teachers. Green Classroom is especially for the pupils of primary school. During this stay, the pupils discover the environment and participate in several outdoor activities. The organization of their stay allow them to alternate between the courts (courses, prices, and yards).

Romania

Education for children and young people capable of high performance:

(1) The State shall support high-performing children and young people both in educational establishments and centers of excellence. Centers of excellence are set up by order of the Minister for Education, Research, Youth and Sport.

(2) Coordination of the actions provided in paragraph (1) is provided by the National Center for Differentiated Training, established by Government Decision, initiated by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport.

(3) Human resources, curricular, informational, material and financial resources for supporting children and young people capable of high performance are provided by the educational units and the school inspectorates, according to the methodological norms developed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport.

(4) To support children and youth capable of high performance, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports organizes olympiads and competitions, profile camps, symposiums and other specific activities and grants scholarships and other forms of material support.

(5) High-performing children and young people benefit, regardless of their age, from educational programs that respect their learning and performance orientations. These programs are deepening learning, grouping on skills, enriching the curriculum with new areas, mentoring and transferring competencies, accelerating promotion according to the individual learning rhythm.” (Article 57, Law on National Education. Law No 1/2011)



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