

Parents Edu



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



PaREntSEdU

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



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AFTER SCHOOL



ACTIVITIES

**ORGANIZED OUT OF
SCHOOLS TO ENRICH
THE EDUCATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENTS**

5. AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OUT OF SCHOOLS TO ENRICH THE EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

a) University lessons open or organized for pupils

Additional classed for children provided by the university

The idea of organizing additional classes for young students appeared in Germany. Then it spread to other countries and became very popular form of education. This concept is very easy to explain: children may be able to participate in ordinary lectures (just like faculty students) conducted by professors. They observe experiences, ask questions, discuss with scientists. It is a unique opportunity for young people to gain a real passion, broaden the horizon, meet new friends and, of course, have an adventure. In Poland, for instance we can find various offers concerned on the specific field of knowledge like economics, medicine, engineering, chemistry, law, geography, maths and many others. Sometimes such activities are extremely useful for children preparing for various competitions at the national level.

If you think about enrolling your offspring for this class, remember all its pros and cons:

Advantages:

- Your child is learning from an early age that science can be a real passion, which encourages them to independent research,
- The child is encouraged to ask questions and can get the answer from professionals in their fields,
- The child can establish long-lasting friendships between the peers supporting each other for the development of their passion,
- They learn through the practice,
- This programme can also be an encouragement of studying themselves,
- It is also an incentive for parents to learn together with their children,

- Children are naturally interested in the world so use their willingness to explore knowledge.

Weaknesses of classes:

- Despite matching the programme to the development of students, sometimes the issues that are discussed may be too difficult and incomprehensible for youth.
- The first rivalry between children can occur in terms of their personal achievements.

As you can see there are much more pros than cons of this form of education. Therefore, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the academic offer of various universities which are located in your city. Maybe your child will be really interested in one of the fields of knowledge and classes conducted at the university will be a chance for him to develop his passion.

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

Poland

The idea of university lessons for pupils exists in Poland, there is, for example, non-profit organization “Uniwersytet dzieci”, which organizes many different activities of this kind.

Portugal

Students Associations or University departments provide courses as students Extension that could be recognized or not by credits. They are open not only for students but also for open to everybody according a rules of access.

Spain

Open days for families and students of high-school grades and Baccalaureate.

Macedonia

Universities promote themselves when it comes to the registration of students, so those days there are some lessons organized for pupils otherwise there is nothing coming from Universities!

France

University organize open door for families and especially for graduates in order to meet the teachers and the current students who will share their experiences. University propose a discovery day which allows participating in the lectures with the students.

Romania

Universities usually organize open lessons or free lessons for pupils, especially to help them for admission exam or in order to make their educational offer known.

b) Laboratory schools

A very broad definition of “laboratory schools” includes campus-based schools, and others with diverse university affiliations, such as charter schools, professional development schools, child study institutes, research and development schools, etc. Three complementary activities are associated with this type of school: education, training and research. The history of laboratory schools is very long and Lab schools grew considerably in the United States between the mid-19th and 20th centuries and have played a major role in the field of educational research. Nowadays laboratory schools are less popular (more of them exist in the United States than in Europe).

Firstly, if you consider enrolling your child in the lab school, you should be aware of all the advantages and disadvantages.

There are a few important strengths of this type of education:

- Lab schools are smaller than the public one and this can be an important value. In a small school, each student can be known and be at the centre of attention. No one gets lost in the crowd. All the adults in the school can know all the

students. Small schools can be more flexible in response to individual students and their circumstances. They also have much lower drop-out rates.

- Lab schools are usually situated in the university campus or close to the university, which gives children a chance to, since the very beginning, learn in an academic atmosphere, which promotes students interest in higher education. They are more likely to choose to take a higher education and transfer is less stressful to them.
- Many laboratory schools have an innovative, experimental approach to teaching. They can offer a way of learning which is hard to find in any public schools. They can, for example, **provide an extended-year, extended-day, mixed-age program with a project-based learning approach**. These techniques empower students to take ownership of their learning.

Weaknesses of Laboratory Schools:

- The frenzied environment can be perceived as an important disadvantage. Most lab schools are designed to train teacher candidates. This requires student teachers and other school and university personnel to frequently enter and exit classrooms to facilitate observation of teacher candidates and the instructional methods used in the classroom throughout the year. This type of activity can be disruptive to children, who are trying to concentrate on their class material, as well as instructors trying to teach.
- Lab schools tend to produce homogenous environment – it might be an advantage or disadvantage, depends on the perspective. Most lab schools are so small that children share a classroom with the same children they did in kindergarten through high school. Some parents would prefer a public school for their children to broaden their social spectrum, which would allow them to learn how to meet new people in a more diverse environment.

If you consider enrolling your child in the lab school:

- Check if there are any lab schools in your city – in (especially eastern) Europe it's not the most popular type of school. You can also check the members of the International Association of Laboratory Schools:
<https://www.laboratoryschools.org/>. Maybe you can find there a school close to your place of living?
- If you successfully found an interesting school, check carefully what this school has to offer? Any interesting additional lessons? Various after-school activities? An innovative approach to teaching?
- Visit the school (maybe there is organized an "open day"?), see how it is functioning and talk to the teachers. Be prepared for this conversation. What do you want to ask about? What is the most important for you in choosing a school? Think about your child's needs – what is the most important from their perspective, will they feel comfortable in that school?
- Maybe you know or you can meet parents of kids who are already attending that school? Ask them about their opinion; do their children like that school?
- Compare the lab schools with other schools your child can attend. Is it the best choice, taking into considerations all circumstances?

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

Poland

In Poland laboratory schools do not exist.

Macedonia

This is possible only for Medical students.

France

The Experimental High school is a public school which proposes an alternative pedagogy based on the joint management between pupils and members of the educational team. Concretely, Staff, Members of the educational team and student, chose to work together (decision, organisation), equally of rights (one person = one vote), «They build the high school».

Objectives: a differentiated pedagogy, a personalized follow-up of the pupils and an education in the autonomy.

Romania

According to the Romanian laws they may be organised, but according to our research, there are no laboratory schools in Romania.

c) Lessons organized by libraries, botanic gardens, zoos, museums, exc.

When the bell rings after the last class, it usually signals the end of the school day for most pupils. After that, some of them go to extracurricular activities but many of them head home to socialize with their friends. Unfortunately, what they do not know is the fact that there are many opportunities for them to learn different things trough after school activities provided by public institutions.

These kind of activities can take many forms. The volunteers from religion communities, day care centers, NGO's and so on help organizing them.

There are many activities which can take place in spaces like libraries, botanic gardens, zoos, museums, etc. We will exemplify these below.

In libraries:

- Author Event. Author visits school/library and gives 30-40 min. presentation followed by either an activity (writing workshop) or Q/A. Local authors often will appear free, or for the cost of transportation.

- Battle of the Books. Participating teams read a list of several books, trying to remember the story details and then battle it out against other teams. Librarians ask progressively more difficult questions.
- Book Builders. Kids are taught about different ways to create a blank book. The librarians might give them some story starter ideas or ideas for illustration.

In botanic gardens:

- Ready, Set, Grow! Participants will learn where our food comes from and how can we reduce our environmental footprint. They will also learn about growing their own food.
- Nature Play. Seek inspiration from nature and create art with leaves, flowers, stones and twine. Children will also enjoy an exploration of the senses through nature play.

In museums:

- Learn by visit. During the visit the guide makes the children familiar with the history of the relics. Doing so, he creates a space for learning and reflection, very efficient when it comes to learn new things.
- Volunteering. Children and parents can volunteer in museum as there is always something to do. It is a great way to spend time in a museum, not only by helping the personal with the organization, but also by learning many things in a more particular way. For volunteering in a museum you just have to talk to the contact person of the museum and you will be told exactly the enrollment procedure.

The benefits for the participants would be:

- A chance for students to get better knowledge of different topics by real practice,

- Students can link between what they learn in their textbooks and what they learn from the volunteer,
- An opportunity for pupils to improve their social and cultural skills,
- They get better understanding on the importance of education,
- Shaping the students' initiative and entrepreneurial attitudes,
- Students can get inspired by successful people,
- Many of those activities will help children to develop their cooperation, communication and team working; also they will be more aware of their self-worth and they will feel like taking part in something big,
- Students with educational difficulties can get support.

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

- Check if there is already an activity like this in your child's school,
- There are also many organizations (very often linked to corporations) which cooperate with schools and provide this type of activity, for example Accenture (in Romania) – they organize some job shadowing days,
- Think if you can get involved in your child's education by sharing some professional experience or maybe a passion, or a knowledge about something,
- Check if you have some important contacts, some successful people who would like to share some advice.

In a controller environment such as a library or a museum, many activities can take place. For example, a child can learn from a lesson in the library how to arrange things, how the books are alphabetized and how that can help them in their day to day activities and how to do proper research on a topic.

In a museum, a “treasure hunt” can be organized, where the children receive a paper with information about the year, the event and what they are supposed to find and then sent around the place to find all the items. The history lesson is included only by the simple search.

Also, at the zoo, a lesson about nature and animals would be taught in a bit. The children will see with their own eyes exotic animals, their behavior and the interaction with their mate. A lot of plants and fish are also available in almost any zoo. A little goes a long way when it comes to show in an interactive way and at the same time teach a child something new and useful.

Benefits:

- The experience of learning through their own research and hard work,
- Interaction and bonding with other children and the feeling of team work,
- Sharpening research and observational skills by reading and searching for information's,
- Better organization skills, completing tasks a child will have to face day to day as an adult,
- Enrich general knowledge (about animals, history, etc.),
- Shaping children to have a thirst of knowledge which can be satisfied by finding new information all the time,
- Increase interactional skills, develop soft skills (team work) and also help them feel connected to the environment,
- Parents can participate to lessons and guide the children through their mission of discovery.

These kinds of lessons can be held by either a teacher or a group of parents. It is recommended for teachers to have interactive lessons in which the approach to nature is encouraged. Zoos, for example, have different regions where children aren't allowed so a safe environment can always be ensured.

Also, parents can organize such lessons. The parent, who takes the initiative and talks with the other parents, can gather a number of children to take care of and entertain.

They can organize treasure hunts and make maps with clues for the children to discover. They can play interactive games such as guessing the animal or find an important painting among many others.

Parents can participate actively and be around the kids, involved in their journey of discovery. They can guide them and keep an eye on them while building a strong foundation for their relationship. Playing games and giving them clues gains trust and creates the feeling of support between parent and child.

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

Poland

Organizing lessons in museums, zoos, etc., which are prepared especially for pupils is a common activity in Poland.

Portugal

In Portugal all Museums, Laboratories as alive Science and Universities, Libraries, garden, zoos, etc., provide Lessons or Workshops, some for free, some with a fee. It's a way in Portugal for raising funds.

France

Libraries, botanic gardens, zoos, museums organize workshops with students, parents, institutions.

Romania

These can be done by them and in partnership with students, parents, institutions, non-governmental organizations and / or economic operators with the approval of their leadership.

**d) Lessons organized in libraries, botanic gardens, zoos, museums, etc.
provided by teachers**

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

Poland

It is possible for a teacher to organize a lesson in a museum, zoo etc., as a part of his/her subject or as an additional lesson.

Romania

These can be done in a multilateral partnership with teachers, students, parents, institutions, non-governmental organizations and / or economic operators with the approval of their leadership.

France

It is possible for a teacher to organize a lesson in libraries, botanic gardens, zoos, museums for children.



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