

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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EXPERIMENTAL EDUCATION

9. EXPERIMENTAL EDUCATION

a) Adventure education (Eg. School on sea - «school under sails»)

Adventure education is the way of learning through adventure centered experiences. Because people experience adventure differently, adventure education can include a wide variety of activities, such as outdoor sports, challenge courses, races, and even indoor activities. Adventure education it is an active process rather than a passive process of learning that requires active engagement from the learners as well as the instructors. Usually, learning concentrates on soft skills.

Benefits:

- Adventure education introduces pupils to risk assessment in a supportive environment,
- It is a unique chance for pupils to work on their confidence and self-esteem,
- It can increase self-efficacy, mindfulness and subjective well-being,
- It may reduce feelings of time pressure and mental stress amongst participants,
- It is a chance to practice teamwork skills,
- Outdoor adventure activities provide opportunities for the connection of individuals with nature (the natural environment), direct connection with other people (interpersonal), and importantly, with themselves (personal).

Be aware that:

- Participants usually are in the unfamiliar environment, this creates some level of anxiety for them, as well as the perception of risk – it might be perceived as dangerous, but it is also a challenge and overcoming this through the mastery of specific tasks results in positive benefits to the individual, such as increased self-esteem,

- Rather than activities themselves, it is the qualities of activities that are responsible for achieving program outcomes. The combination of challenge, mastery, and success in activities is what led to participant growth. Challenges should be holistic in order to maximize positive outcomes. Programs should include mental, emotional, and physical challenges, and encourage concurrent mastery in all three domains.

If you are ready to allow your child to enjoy the benefits of adventure education, here is what you can do:

- Do your research – what are your options, depends on your place of living? Are there any adventure education programs that your child can participate in? Maybe a school or any other organization offers activities that give a chance for kids to experience adventure,
- If your school does not have such an offer and your relationship with the teacher is good enough, you can think of inspiring him/her. Parent's support for experiments such as adventure activities can be very valuable for the teachers,
- It is important to remember that activities should be well organized and matched to suit the particular needs and requirements of the participants. Check the offer that you found also from this perspective. Think carefully also about your child's needs – his/her personality is rather introverting, fearful or full of energy, hyperactive and risk-taking. Maybe you will need to encourage your child to take a risk,
- If you did not find any organized adventure education programs for your child, you can also consider some activities inspired by the idea of adventure education. Maybe climbing, horse riding, taking part in a race can become a good chance for your child to challenge his/her skills.

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

Poland

There is an initiative called "School under sails". Pupils take part in a competition (important is their involvement in charity/volunteering) and as a prize, some of them spend a semester on a sea cruise, learning school subjects as well as sailing.

Portugal

The Portuguese army and some organizations provide adventure education (e.g.. Ex. Navy provide an educational adventure in a historic sailboat) during the summer time.

Romania

1. BLACK SEA DIVING SCHOOL (<http://www.cursuriscufundari.ro>)
2. Black Sea Sailing School (<http://www.scoalarya.ro/en/node/34>)
3. Regional Air Support (<http://www.regional.ro>)
4. The Sea Survival School, as a part of Regional Air Services is the first training provider from the Eastern Europe for emergency situations response, both in gas and oil industry and in air transportation.(<http://www.sea-survival.ro/en/about-us>) etc.

b) Environmental education - EE (eg. green schools)

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

Poland

In Poland environmental education is usually implemented as "Green school" - a form of implementation of the curriculum at school (most often in primary school), during a few-day trip of the whole branch together with teachers to towns with natural values. The trip should be a continuation of classes conducted during the normal course of teaching.

The name “white school” is often used to implement this type of activity in winter.

Portugal

Some schools are part of Eco-Schools network.

Macedonia

There are some initiatives for better environmental education. Taking care of environment and cleaning the environment but these initiatives are coming from non-public sectors and not the schools.

France

“Branféré Nicolas Hulot's school” is a wildlife and botanical park, ground of observation and delight! It is a center of raising awareness and educational to the environment.

“La Ferme des Enfants” (children's farm). It is a school within ecologic village and a farm. The school and the middle school has for general object to favour a respectful education of the child and favourable to its needs. It also takes care to pass on tools and ways of popularization for the education to the environment. The association also has for vocation the development of intergenerational projects.

Romania

Examples:

1. Green School Romania
2. The Romania Green Building Council (RoGBC) organizes a nationwide contest for Romania's schools to award a prize package of green building materials, services and technology to help create a demonstration project that is beneficial to the winning school and informative and inspiring to visitors.

c) Forest schools

The concept was developed in Laona, Wisconsin in 1928 which claims the world's first School Forest. Other resources reveal that the Forest School concept was originated

in Scandinavia in 1950's. The idea was developed and expanded throughout the United States and other countries.

Forest school is an outdoor education learning model and it has been defined as “an inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment”⁶.

The first school in Romania appeared in April 2016 in Brasov where kids all ages planted a forest. The project is quickly expanding throughout the country in larger cities. The schools strive to get the best out of the outdoors and give unique experiences to the children.

Benefits:

- The lessons are based on cognitive, emotional and physical development,
- Taking the classes outside on all seasons, the kids can observe up close the changes from season to season (walking on ice, planting vegetables in the spring, harvest their own vegetables in summer and run through leaves on autumn⁷),
- Creativity and imagination are activated and used more in outdoor classes,
- Attention to details is sharpened throughout curiosity,
- The program can be integrated into schools,
- Experiential learning is provided,
- Grows soft skills and interpersonal relationships.

⁶ O'Brien, Liz; Murray, Richard (2008), *Forest School Research Summary* (PDF), Forest Research

⁷ <http://forestschoool.ro>

Parents can participate to classes from a far and observe their children. The environment is safe, the staff is professional, and every child receives equal amounts of attention.

The lessons are interactive and catch the kids' attention. Everything they learn is useful and will be used in their future lives as adults. Also, the kids are learning ethical matters about nature.

The diversity of activities from gardening to planting trees helps in the kids' personal development. The group activities help with soft skills and with bonding.

Adaptation to the environment all year round is also helpful for their integrity society and help to their future lives as adults.

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Romania

Forest School (<http://forestschool.ro/about>)

France

Forest School (<https://www.autourdufeu.org/>)



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