

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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A low-angle photograph of several palm trees against a clear sky. The image is framed by yellow triangular shapes in the top-left and bottom-right corners. The text 'Summer' is in white, and 'Activities' is in red, separated by a dotted line of yellow dots.

Summer

.....

Activities

10. SUMMER ACTIVITIES

a) Summer language schools

Despite the fact that students learn new languages at school, parents often send their children to private courses to improve language skills and learn new languages. There are many private language schools where you can learn languages of the whole world. But often in the multiplicity of duties and extra-curricular children, does not have time for the next classes of the week.

In this case, summer schools are a good solution.

Their mission is to strengthen and support the development of students and anyone interested in teaching foreign languages. Summer schools are a very good solution to fill in a constructive way of free time during the holidays of our children. Summer schools have a positive influence not only on language learning, but also on the friendship and social life of our children. Participation in classes offered by the school gives you the chance to make new acquaintances, including those with people of different origins. Summer language schools are often run by native speakers - people who use a given language on a daily basis. Classes with them give children the opportunity to learn the informal language used by people in a given place.

If we are well aware of the market, we can find really attractive school offers. Some of them are also organized free of charge. For example, at other cultural institutions.

The mission of summer language schools is therefore to provide high quality and educational standards; increasing self-confidence, by improving language skills, which nowadays are the basis for building your position in the labor market.

Tips:

- Check the offers of cultural institutions - they often offer holiday training courses,
- If you can afford it financially - check the offers of language schools that offer foreign summer language schools abroad,

- Look for informal "student exchange" programs - there are many places on the Internet where parents of children from different countries offer accommodation and participation in an unformed language course in exchange for the possibility of a later departure of their child,
- Remember that the excess of knowledge can overwhelm your child, so listen to their needs, and if you see that some classes are a burden for them, do not press them to participate in them.

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

Poland

There are summer language schools/language courses/language camps organized by private companies (attending usually requires payment).

Portugal

Private schools organized by providers as the official Languages Institutes (British council, Cervantes, Alliance Française...) and also other Language schools with special agreements with the previous one (diploma Cambridge...). These schools deliver diplomas recognized by international Universities. There are not any correlation with the compulsory school but could be recognized by universities and accreditation regarding the level of the diploma.

Spain

It depends on the Region, but most of them consider this possibility.

Macedonia

International Balkan University in Skopje is providing a "summer language school" for high school students so when they will get in university they will know the language.

France

A very wide offer of language study holidays for children and the teenagers. There are also private lessons of languages. The offer range from internships (training courses), remedial course, revision, school support to tutoring. Summer camps are collective receptions with accommodation (hosting) for the young people from 4 to 17 years old during their school, professional vacation or during their leisure activities.

Romania

They can be organized groups by public and / or private schools / institutions / organizations.

b) Summer placement in NGOs and voluntary organizations

Summer placements are an excellent way for young people to gain voluntary and work experience, with a typical length of 4 – 6 weeks or even the entire summer period. Summer placements are a great opportunity to develop the volunteering and work competences and skills, as well as to increase the abilities of youth: the aim of the summer placement is to promote the social impact of young people in the field of volunteering, rise their social awareness and build up contacts in different NGO and voluntary organizations, helping them to get a foot in the door of this organizations.

There are some European countries where summer placement in NGOs and voluntary organisations is quite common for youngsters, from 14 years old, mainly in UK and Northern Europe. There are many organizations that offers structured summer placement, usually offering positions in social areas. However, some other countries don't allow or don't have a clear legislation about this kind of activities, due to the legal age for being involved in this type of social actions. Before thinking on involving your children in this kind of activities, you should consult Parents Association, the school administration or the NGO about the possibility and conditions.

If you are interested, as a parent, in finding summer placements for your child, you should take into account the following considerations:

- Check out your child social interests, in order to help him/her to find a summer placement according to his/her priorities,
- Make sure you choose NGOs or voluntary organizations properly, finding out exactly what the placement will involve: it is important to know the size of the organization, the social aim, the location, the level of support that the organization offers, the sector, and the skills that your child would like to develop,
- There are many ways to apply to this summer placements. The organizations usually use an online application form: by website or sending CV to an e-mail address. Make sure your child has elaborated his/her CV. It is recommended to use the Europass CV format. Of course, your children will not have any job experience, but NGOs and voluntary organizations are more interested in their hobbies, previous volunteer experiences, or their interests,
- If your child application is approved, then he/she will be probably invited to an interview. It is convenient to prepare the interview: visit the organization's website, get to know its mission, values and objectives,
- If the young volunteers are between 12 and the legal age of majority, parents will have to sign a permission. This permission must assess whether volunteering affects child' development, growth and formation. However, there is not a clear regulation about summer placement in the European Union: in all European countries children needs their parents authorization to start this kind of activities, at least until they have 16 years old, although each legislation is different in each European country,
- It is important to consider the number of weekly hours in which he/she will participate as a volunteer,
- It is important that both the organization and the volunteer sign a collaboration agreement, in which the volunteer's duties, rights and obligations are established. Likewise, the volunteer must have an insurance that covers the damages or accidents during the Summer Placement period.

Some benefits that summer placements in NGOs and voluntary organisations may have on youngsters are:

- It improves the professional skills of young people in different areas,
- It improves the professional competences of young people in different areas,
- Summer placements favour the relationship between organizations and young workers,
- It allows young people to know the internal structure of an NGO,
- It allows young people to gain social awareness on those issues that may affect at national and international levels,
- It empowers young people in social issues,
- It sensitizes young people and relatives about the social needs present today,
- It allows young people to acquire new social skills,
- It favours the positive social impact from early ages,
- It facilitates the acquisition of useful knowledge for the professional development of young people,
- It facilitates job promotion in the social field,
- It favours the relationship between parents and children.

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

Poland

Students are able to volunteer in companies or NGOs (but they usually have to find a place by themselves, there is no open call for such volunteering).

Portugal

There are national programs for occupation of Youth in Summer and school holidays for youngsters from 13 to 30 years old. One is based on the methodology of adventure camp organised by weeks and other is based on placements with special tasks like a summer events guiding etc. Both programs are under the rules of Sport and Youth Portuguese Institute.

Macedonia

There are no summer placements in NGO's or in voluntary organizations, at least there are no calls for that but a student can get involved in NGO and after few months can leave it! It's free of will!

c) Summer placement in companies

Summer placements known as internships are an excellent way of gaining great work experience. Learning the practical skills offered by internships and practices is very important in the education process of each person. In today's employers' minds, the practical skills of potential employees are particularly valued. Sometimes even more than theoretical knowledge itself, that is why you need to remember about it when planning the child's educational process. It is worth following the training and training offer of companies that are within the reach of our child.

Our children learn a lot through summer internships. Not only practical knowledge but also cooperation with other people. How the market works. Depending on the offer, we have paid or free internships. If the apprenticeship period is paid, we teach the child the value of money.

Benefits:

- **Develop critical work skills:** this is a very important skill in everyday life. Getting to know how the market works and how it works in companies is very important for future employees at the stage of study,

- **Get the edge over the competition:** Gaining the advantage of having experience is very important in the recruitment process. This knowledge your child will acquire now will allow them to easily enter the labor market and be competitive,
- Having practical skills facilitates the theoretical learning process. Therefore, if we send a child to an internship, we can count on it achieving better academic results,
- **Network:** one of the most valuable resources is to have a network of connections and acquaintances. Thanks to internships, we can increase the number of contacts in the industry that interests us,
- **Secure future employment:** Internships in a given company can also lead to long-term cooperation,
- It is worth taking internships also to find out if your child's career path is right for them,
- **Explore unexpected avenues:** Internships can give your child the chance to try out roles, departments and industries they have never considered, which may help narrow down their options, or even open up a whole new career path,
- **Gain experience beyond the textbooks,**
- **Avoid the uni-to-work culture shock:** The first year at work is very difficult for everyone. Through the experience of apprenticeships in the 5th year of study or high school, your child can try to prepare for it,
- **Earn as you learn:** Unfortunately, there are many free practices offered by companies. However, if searched well, your child can find something for which they will get a salary.

Guide for parents:

- Check your school careers service board for more opportunities,

- Research companies properly and find out exactly what the placement will involve,
- Check filling out an online application form on the company's website or sending a CV and a covering letter.

Tips:

- You must remember that nowadays people with post-graduate education also benefit from internship offers. Sometimes in some companies it is required to complete studies to take up internships, so you should read this beforehand,
- If your child has any previous experience, be sure they write about it in their CV. Also, remember about the experience they gained during the studies, working in an interest club or in a school government,
- Your child will probably need to apply well in advance, as plenty of companies close their deadlines seven months or more before the placement starts.

Parent's support is very important at this stage. Very often when taking an internship, students may feel frustrated that they do not have time or that they do not earn money for their work. During this period, parental support is important, both financial and emotional.

- Be your child's mentor, adviser and supporter. Be there to guide, give advice, and provide a listening ear, but let your child do the work and take the lead,
- Share leads about jobs, but then let your student act on those that are interesting to her,
- Proofread letters, resumes, etc.
- Talk to your child about professional expectations, business demeanor, workplace behavior, professional dress,

- Talk to your child about good interviewing skills, what kinds of questions to expect, how to prepare for follow-up questions, how to make small talk, how to prepare answers to likely questions,
- Help your child define and clarify their goals and create a plan of action.
- Help with write your child's resume, cover letters, etc.,
- Help with contacting a potential employer,
- Go to career fairs with your child.

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

Poland

Students are able to work in companies during summer if they are more than 16 years old. They can also do an internship (but they usually have to find a place by themselves).

France

Legal age in France is 16 years old.

Portugal

The Sport and Youth Portuguese Institute, provide a program of placements in companies from 16 to 30 years old.

Spain

Not permitted under legal age for working (16 years old).

Macedonia

Some companies are "employing" students and high school students to get knowledge about the work that they do and also to help them during the summer holidays which for high school students is almost 3 months!

Turkey

Vocational school students are placed in various companies during the summer.

Romania

It is possible as an unpaid volunteer, as a paid employee or as a person working for a beneficiary on the basis of service contract.

d) Summer placement in universities, research institutions etc.

There are various opportunities of programs dedicated to students, especially from secondary schools, that are organized by universities, colleges and research institutes, and their aims can include:

- Research and science promotion among young people, for example, summer schools on certain topics, courses, etc.,
- Trying-out programs (e.g. in medicine field) to experience the science before actually choosing this career path, for example, medical internships, summer programs, community service projects, shadowing a doctor, volunteering in a hospital, etc.,
- Preparing for the final exams, e.g. courses delivered by universities,
- Strengthening the college/university application, e.g. courses and summer research programs delivered by universities,
- Exploring interests and various career fields, e.g. internships at research institutes.

“An internship is essentially an introductory work experience in a professional career field. It is sometimes paid, though usually at the lowest end of the pay scale, and it is sometimes unpaid. The function of an internship is to gain experience and insight into a certain field while also performing some functional work in exchange for the experience”.

Some of the programs charge a fee to attend, some are paid for, and some even pay *a student* to attend. Practically all of them help the participant to get hands-on learning and valuable research experiences in the science over the summer breaks.

Tips:

- Search, search, search! Yourself or get your child to look for the opportunities of summer placements, internships, summer schools, courses, programs, etc. Browse the Internet – some educational blogs (or press) have catalogues of available placements. Check at the websites of the institutions your child is especially interested in,
- Ask in your child's school – the teachers or career counsellors may have the information about available opportunities,
- Use your contacts – there may be some options for organizing, for example, the job shadowing activities or summer internships in a research institute,
- Motivate your child to boost his/her interest in such programs,
- However, do not put a pressure on a child to take part in such activities. Their motivation should be internal, coming from their passions and interests. Control less, respect the choices of your child and help them maintain their passions. Do not urge your child to fulfill your dreams. Examine your own motivations, whether you are not pushing your child into a kind of career because of your own sense of pride or triumph,
- If your child asks you for helping him/her in application for the placement or in some tasks regarding the placement itself, try to be supportive as much as you can. If you do not have certain knowledge to help, say it sincerely. Together you can look for support somewhere else.

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

Poland

Students, if they are interested, are able to find a summer placement in universities or research institutions, but there is no open call for that.

France

Legal age in France is 16 years old.

Portugal

There are several Summer placements in universities, research institutions specially for the students from 15-17 years old but also for university students, most of them with aim to promote research interest among them, both in Sciences and Humanities field.

Spain

Not permitted under legal age for working (16 years old).

Macedonia

There is no open call for any kind of placements in universities or institution's, but students can search themselves of such opportunities.



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