



## Six.monthly Report about the Project “Education Makes the Difference”



The project started on **June 1<sup>st</sup> 2008** at the seat of the association Rom pentru Rom and with with activities for those children who attend the centre.

The beginning was on the occasion of the **International Day of Childhood**, when a group of children took part to the feast hold by Panciu municipality. The children watched the sepctacle dedicated to them and were involved in a street-painting contest, in which the children got a diplome for the most beautiful drawing.

On the **International Day of Environment** had place some activities together with the students from Panciu High School ‘Ioan Slavici’, during which the children of the centre showed the products they made of recyclable materials, which they worked with during the year, and

stuck paper butterflies and flowers to garbage bins in the park nearby.

Still during the International Day of Environment at the centre children attended some activities aimed at teaching how to behave in the case of natural disasters (‘How should I behave during an earthquake?’, ‘Water: friend or enemy?’).

The month of June went on with an introduction for the children about **good manners of behaviour** – relations with other children, begging pardon, thanking, how to behave in the street etc – and were carried on activities of teaching literacy through drawing activities, ball games and manual activities aimed at the development of hand movements and at using one’s own imagination.



**Literacy teaching** activities are realized through the following instruments:

- Each child has his/her own exercise book in which he/she writes the letters, words and sentences, according to their literacy level. In such way you can evaluate children’s progression;
- Activities about time: learning the clock, months of the year, days of the week, the date;
- Manual activities with coloured clay and expired food (pasta, beans, straws, cans), of whom the results were persons, trees and animals from the surrounding environment, in order to make the children respect it.

In the frame of manual activities, children are introduced to kitchen – dangerous food and substances, and are taught how to avoid cuts and burns. During this phase we introduced even the first activities about personal hygiene: cleaning hands before the beginning of activities and before their afternoon snack. Rainwater was introduced as helpful for personal hygiene.



**Evaluation instrument:** each child creates a flower, to which he adds a coloured petal after each activity. Colours depend on the kind of performed activity (red: writing, green: manual activity, orange: mathematical activity, blue: hygiene) and there is even black colour, which symbolizes a negative behaviour. Coloured petals show also the attendance of activities by the children.

A problem we noticed was that the black petal at the beginning was considered a positive symbol, because of the diversity (for the children, the one with the most of black petals became “the coolest one”). Luckily it came to be considered as a negative thing, so that behaviour was modified.



**In July**, activities about **hygiene** continued and were realized through the distribution among the children of a toothbrush and a case, as an award for attending the centre during activities and we taught the first steps in cleaning one's own teeth. We showed the children the correct way to brush them, remarking that most of them took great interest in doing this correctly. We observed a particular pleasure, by some children, to take as much time as possible in cleaning their teeth. Another positive aspect was the moment in which the children declared that their parents bought them toothpaste and brush.

**Body expression** activity took the shape of preparing a fashion parade. Children were taught personal coordination, correct posture, staying with other children and reciprocal respect exercises. Children liked this activity so much that, as an effect, attendance of centre grew up.

When the first shift of volunteers took place, we started preparations of **theatre play ‘Peter Pan’**. Preparations happened by turns with the fashion parade and with the watching of the cartoon ‘Peter Pan’ (so the children could understand who is the character and what the play is about); we continued also literacy activities through games and songs, manual activities with plasticine and recyclable materials, in order to prepare decorations. We held a treasure hunt, during which the children learned







how to read a map and entered a better way into the subject of the play, the distribution of roles being the climax of the activity.

**August** began with the arrival of the second shift of volunteers, with whom preparations for **theatre play** and for **fashion parade** went on. Activities about moulding, drawing, painting, literacy teaching, personal hygiene and other activities in the open air and team games went on till the middle of the month, when they had a stop due to the spectacle.

showed at Panciu Culture House and a week later in **Nicoresti**, at 'Group Homes for Handicapped Orphans.

Teenagers were involved in **building a football, basketball and volleyball field** and they are rewarded with an excursion to Doaga Lake.

Around the end of the month, activities took a multicultural feature and were realized with the youth coming from Italy in the frame of a Youth Exchange. Together they all took part to **intercultural games**, to activities in Nicoresti and some of them went to **Bucharest** to visit association Parada”.



In Nicoresti, the children played their spectacle and the fashion parade in front of disabled children, afterwards, they were taken to Nicoresti educational centre, where they met other children, who are their same age, and they had some activities (**jugglery, drawing, face painting,...**).



A positive remark is that activities at the Centre “Pinochio” were confirmed (they begged pardon, thanked, washed their hands and all without we needed to tell them) and they got integrated and together well with the other children, they’d never met before.



**In September** we could notice a reduced attendance by the children. They started to prepare themselves for the beginning of school year, revising some knowledge through **games like tangram, slide rules, cubes or playing cards for logical-mathematical activities, drawing, painting, sport, activities in open air, games.**

**October** started with a good attendance, especially the ones who are in kindergarten age. **Literacy activities** were realized at the same time with recreational activities: dictations, mathematical and writing



activities together with hygiene and manual activities. Even “attendance flowers” instrument was started again.

On the occasion of ‘**Road Safety Week**’ the children, together with some students from local secondary school, acted a role-playing activity, in which, after drawing some streets on the football playing field, they played the role of cars, bikes, motorbikes, horse carts and pedestrians, following the good rules of behaviour on the road.

During the month the children started preparing decorations for **Halloween** (they drew different characters, objects and animals, cut them and stuck them to the walls of the windows). They even tried to **sew up UNICEF rag dolls**, but this was too difficult, because they didn’t have the needed sewing skill nor can they correctly use a needle.

They took part to a spectacle for Halloween, hold by Panciu Secondary School and they behaved very well, afterwards they took part to a spectacle hold by Centre ‘Pinocchio’, with participation by some students form secondary school. During this event some volunteers in the centre and some among the oldest boys, paint the youngest ones’ faces, so they can play the role of some character of Halloween they like.



Daniela Hulea, Educator in Charge of Educational Day Centre ‘Pinocchio’