

**What's up in education**  
New models for future pre-school services

# Families and community involvement and participation

**SLOVENIA**



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# Regulatory framework

**THE LAW: THE KINDERGARTEN ACT** (1996, officially consolidated text, Official Gazette of RS št.100 / 05 and the Law on the Placement of Children with Special Needs -2011 - ZOUPP-1)

Pre-primary education in Slovenia is considered a separate level of educational system. The country has established an integrated approach to pre-school education, combining education, play and child care in pre-school institutions.

**The basic tasks of pre-school education are to support parents in comprehensive care for children, to improve the quality of family life and to create good conditions for optimal development of children's physical and mental abilities.**



# Regulatory framework

## Curriculum for kindergartens

(1999, Ljubljana: Ministry of Education and Sport)



### **The principle of cooperation with parents**

Parents are the ones who can provide suggestions and concrete activities to enrich the work of the kindergarten.

When working with families, their privacy, culture, identity, language, worldview, values, beliefs, attitudes, habits and customs should be recognized.

### **The principle of cooperation with the environment and community**

Taking into account the diversity and scope of natural and socio-cultural learning resources from environment and community

Consideration of natural and socio-cultural specificities of Childs's backgrounds.



# Regulatory framework

## ANNUAL WORK PLAN

is by Law official document that defines organization and detailed content of the life and work of kindergarten and it is adopted by the kindergarten's Board.

Planned, systematic and regular involvement of parents in the life and work of kindergarten.

Parents are included in decision-making:

- Board meetings of parents (29 representatives)
- Participation in the council of an institution - **kindergarten's Board** (3 representatives)
- Cooperation in kindergarten's foundation (3 representatives).

With the formal and informal forms of cooperation we want to establish a genuine relationship based on trust, tolerance and respect.



# Modes and tools of participation



## INDIVIDUAL WORK WITH PARENTS

- Every day – at the reception, going home
- Individual meetings: once a month to talk, individual interviews; to address educational issues, counseling, coordination of social and family education

## COMMON FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH PARENTS

At least two **PARENTS MEETINGS** in a school year :

- in autumn time: presentation and adoption of the pedagogical annual work plan
- in spring time: presentation of the yearly work and progress, joint excursions, working actions

## CREATIVE WORKSHOPS, PLAYING HOURS

- Parents play and create together with the children



# Modes and tools of parents participation



## PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE REGULARLY:

- In the educational work
- For the realization of the objectives; collection of various materials, organization of information visits, participation in educational work, job promotions, tours, preparing performances for children...
- Written notification
- Regular information via the website, eAssistant and e-mail
- Surveys
- Talking meeting
- Donations
- Variety of activities



# What we do – Cooperation with parents

## ESCORTS OF PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS ON TRIPS



*Preschool teacher Monika Brodarić*  
*3-5 year old children*



## What we do - Cooperation with parents



Presentation of occupation  
- balerina



*Preschool teacher Matic Škrlovník*  
*1-2 year old children*



# What we do – Cooperation with parents

Presentation of occupation - painter





# What we do - Cooperation with parents

Presentation of Slovenian culture- Kurents visiting the kindergarten





# What we do – Cooperation with parents

## Workshops with parents





# What we do - Cooperation with parents

Presentation of sport Badminton by father.





# What we do – Cooperation with parents

Presentation of children for parents:

Leaning about Slovenia



Presentation of sport Baskedball by father





# What we do – Cooperation with parents

Presentation of foreign cultures by parents



THAILAND



HUNGARY



# What we do - Cooperation with parents

Presentation of foreign cultures by parents

Turkish day



Serbian day



Nepal's day





# What we do - Cooperation with parents

Presentation of foreign cultures by parents



Japanese day



Spanish day



# What we do - Cooperation with parents

Parents for children: Story act by parents



*Preschool teacher Mateja Pakiž*



*Preschool teacher Alenka Bregant Pirc*



# What we do – Cooperation with parents

## Baking with grandmother





# What we do – Cooperation with parents

Gardening with parents - herb garden





# What we do – Cooperation with parents

## Culinary workshop with parents



*Preschool teacher Martina Hočevar Trontelj*

# What we do

## Cooperation with parents and local community

Intergeneration  
cooperation  
Simbioza center





# What we do

## Cooperation with parents and local community

UNESCO - BLUE CHAIR



# What we do

## Cooperation with parents and local community

UNESCO – philosophy for young





# What we do

## Cooperation with parents and local community



### Traditional Slovenian breakfast

In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenian Beekeepers Association, they annually participate in the pan-Slovenian campaign Traditional Slovenian Breakfast. On the initiative of the Ministry at the event in 2012 they hosted President of the Republic of Slovenia.

As an example of an excellent practice, they hosted the current Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia mag. Dejan Zidan and the Czech Minister of Agriculture Mr. Marian Jurečka in September 2015. The purpose of the visit was to present the Czech delegation a way to show the children the benefit of bees, the work of the beekeeper and honey breakfast, which was introduced in Europe by our ministry.

More:

[http://www.mkgp.gov.si/nc/en/media\\_room/news/article/1328/8306/](http://www.mkgp.gov.si/nc/en/media_room/news/article/1328/8306/)

# What we do – Cooperation with parents

STORIES FROM HERE AND THERE:

parents telling stories in their mother languages and presenting their cultures.



Unit Storžek, preschool teachers: Mirijam Adamič, Matjaž Alič and Laura Kašnik



# What we do

## Cooperation with parents and local community



Action for more beautiful Ljubljana,  
planting the trees on Golovec.





# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners

Learning about our local community - visiting the city center.





# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners

- Parents school: educational lectures for parents
- Educational workshops for parents





# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners



International seminar



Day of languages – Visiting Škofja Loka



# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners



Municipality of Ljubljana – Dragons carnival



# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners





# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners



# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners

Kindergarten Jelka received a Plaque of capital city of Ljubljana in 2008, which is the highest recognition of the capital of Ljubljana. The plaque was awarded for kindergarten's work which promotes the capital city of Ljubljana and presents itself as a city of progress, cooperation and personal and collective growth for people and by people of all generations.

The Plaque of capital city of Ljubljana was rewarded for following project activities:

- early integrated English language learning,
- acquisition of the certificate of ECO-Schools and Eco-flag and awards for outstanding achievements in improving the environment of the school and the local community by the European Eco school,
- for many years it presents Ljubljana at the Children's international carnival in Opatija -Croatia,
- it is the initiator of international humanitarian actions to help children at home and abroad (collecting toys and urgently needed supplies for the orphaned children in Bosnia, raising funds for children with cerebral palsy, for physically handicapped children, etc.),
- collaboration with senior citizens and people with disabilities,
- cooperation with other kindergartens (Mengeš, Izola, Škofja Loka, Maribor, Ptuj and Kranjska Gora)
- and raising awareness about the importance of healthy living in young people, in their parents and grandparents in terms of intergenerational integration.



# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners



In cooperation with its partners Neuron d.o.o. and Pro Eco d.o.o. in the framework of the Ministry of Education and Sport and with the financing of the European Social Funds, the kindergarten prepared and produced e-learning materials called Playfully with Jelka (Igraje z Jelko).

The material is meant for pre-school children from the age of four, with the assistance of adult for learning, consolidation and upgrading of educational content, which is the subject of Curriculum for kindergartens.

The material is available to users free of charge at the web address: <http://jelka.nevron.si/>



# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners



Active and continuous collaboration also takes place with the following institutions:

- Pedagogical Institute: Step by step program (conducted in the units of kindergarten), staff training, active participation and representing our model of professional development for preschool educators at international conference in November 2015.
- Ministry of Internal Affairs: cooperation with police, sport department, Police academy.

Faculty of Ljubljana and Koper:

- the Department of pre-school education; teaching practice, exemplary performances, visitations, practical performances and practice of students.
- the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation

Pre-School Education School and Gymnasium of Ljubljana, Koper, Jesenice and Kamnik:

- on teaching practice placements, practical performances and practice of students
- intergenerational cooperation,
- the performances and workshops for children.
- Therapeutic dog visiting in kindergarten in conjunction with mathematics – innovation project

# What we do

## Cooperation with community and social partners

- Secondary School of Nursing: carrying out voluntary work.

Primary schools surrounding kindergarten through various forms of work with a view to a smooth transition to school and a single coordinated operation of:

- the use of the gym Elementary School Bevk and the Sava village
- of visits children
- the performances for children

Health Care Bežigrad, Centre of social department, National institute for public health, National Centre for mental health:

- dental education and health prevention in kindergarten
- cooperation with variety of experts

Special Education Centre Janez Levec

- Institute for the Blind and Partially Sighted Children Ljubljana

Youth and the Society for inclusion

Library of Ljubljana

Institute for Sustainable Development: School eco garden.

- TVU - Week of lifelong learning
- The Association of Slovenian sports people with disabilities

Homes for elderly people





# What we want to improve

## Look in to the future

The kindergarten has been praised by parents, as it employs highly educated workforce and cares for teamwork, continuous professional training, and exchange of experiences and transfer of excellent practice.

The kindergarten is active and well recognized at the local as well as at the international level. It cooperates actively with the founder of the Municipality of Ljubljana and the competent ministries.

**We want to continue to grow and develop active relationship with parents and local community.**

**Growth in open-minded and tolerance for differences in families and cultures.**

