

EVEIL - “Innovating pedagogical approaches for the early development of visually impaired children involving their parents”

EVEIL is an international project organized by six European partners and financed by the program COMENIUS of the European Union.

The project aims on creating a network of professionals in the field of pre-reading activities for blind and partially sighted children.

EVEIL invites you as persons working in this field to take part at this network.

On the EVEIL-website www.comenius-eveil.eu you can find actual information about the work of the project. The site is in English, French, German, Romanian, Czech and Slovak.

Practices in the development of listening and pre-literacy skills at pre-school children with visual disability

One activity of the EVEIL project is the study, within the six partner countries, on the educational policies and school systems (for kindergarten), then a list of current pre-reading and conceptualization activities in their countries, for visual impaired children.

The Association for the Blind from Romania (ANVR) developed a questionnaire that was then translated and sent in the 6 countries involved.

The questionnaire consisted of three parts referring to :

- the description of the educational policy system in each country concerning pre-school education,
- the description of the projects and experiences about the pre-acquisitions in the development of listening and literacy skills
- and finally the description of the projects and experiences about existing supports for parents of visually impaired children in the development and literacy skills.

In the description of the **educational policies system** in each country, each partner mentioned the system of specialized education, inclusive education, integration in the mainstream system of education or this service being included in the social and health system of support, depending to each partner.

The question concerning **the educational partner** offered various responses but mainly the following partners are mentioned : Associations of the Blind in each country, special schools and centers, libraries for the blind, visiting teaching services, special pedagogic centers, universities and parents.

A very important part was the information concerning the **curriculum** that the children with visual impairment follow and particularly the **language and Communication area of curriculum** with its aims and main objectives.

Most of the curricula the children must follow include sensory stimulation, cognitive development, language and communication with a stress on pre-braille for blind children, social development, motor development with orientation and mobility skills also and daily living skills. These curriculum areas take into consideration the general development of a child, but also the implications of the visual impairment.

The second part of the report presents some **experiences or projects** lead by the EVEIL partners, first of all activities with children about pre-acquisitions in the development of listening and literacy skills, and then activities to offer support for parents of visually impaired children in the development of listening and literacy skills.

Please visit the EVEIL website www.comenius-eveil.eu

You can read the report "**Practices in the development of listening and pre-literacy skills at pre-school children with visual disability**" and the presentation of some experiences or projects :

- French Discovery Workshops, from the French Federation of the Blind
- Tactile Street to Braille, created by Dr. Markus Lang from the Pedagogical University of Heidelberg
- The concept of the Pfeifi-books
- The Mangold Braille Program
- The books for the development tyflography "Cvicebnica z tyflografiky" (Slovakia)
- ...

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