

“Learning through Projects in pre-school”

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Topic: Creative curriculum

School context

It is a private school located in the center of A Coruña. The pre-school team consists of 6 teachers who deal with 6 groups of 25 students each. There are two classes with children aged 3, 2 with children aged 4 and 2 with children aged 5.

Four years ago they decided not to use textbooks in the classroom, in order to focus on the development of projects.

A creative curriculum

Working by projects is a creative way to design education: the curriculum is understood as something that is neither child-centered nor designed exclusively for teachers; it is an "emergent curriculum" in which teachers, students and families are involved in a topic that motivates them and, little by little, through their daily work, projects develop.

They start by formulating the three basic questions to get into any topic of interest: what do we know about it?, What else do we want to learn? And how do we manage to get it?.

The collaboration of the families is essential to carry out a curriculum organization like this because if teachers will not explain in detail the philosophy of the project, working families may distrust or oppose. For the communication between school and homes to be effective, periodic meetings are held to discuss the image of the child and learn how to understand which project methodology connects perfectly with the children's interests and motivations. Additionally, the rich human asset that families bring along is used in the classroom workshops in which (in turn) the parents have the opportunity to be in their children's classroom at teaching time developing curriculum tasks.

The **aims** were:

- To improve the students' motivation for schoolwork based on their interests.
- To increase communication with families.
- To develop autonomy and personal initiative by allowing students to participate in making curriculum decisions.

- To stay away from repetitive and stereotyped school tasks.
- To encourage creativity for both students and teachers.

Key factors for success

To organize the curriculum in this way the following was required: a team of teachers willing to accept uncertainty as part of the creative process involved in teaching, a management team that understands and supports this initiative, some families to work together and enthusiastic students to go in with firm step on the long road to knowledge and autonomy.



