Computer week?

No, computer months!!!

23.10.2020

Due to the deterioration of the epidemiological situation in the country, which is also reflected in the education system, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia has adopted new measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 infections.

Kindergartens will be open next week to provide emergency care only for children whose parents are employed and cannot provide care in any other way.

The flow of life with Covid 19 forced us to stop in an instant. Nature stopped us. Therefore, the educators in the kindergartens wanted to encourage parents to take advantage of this time when they can really dedicate themselves to their children and pay more attention to them. Let them let go of this flow, which may connect them even more and re-learn what is really important.

During the first wave of the epidemic, they thought about how to reach children and what to offer them. During the epidemic, they realized how important it is to keep in touch with your group.

Once or twice a week, teachers contacted the families via e-mail, where they sent them videos of themselves and ideas on how to survive and make the most of their time with their children. They advised them on how they could involve children in daily tasks, such as cooking lunch together, arranging the garden, rearranging the children's room according to the child's wishes. The proposals came from all areas of the curriculum and sent them activities related to mathematics, nature, language, society, art and movement.

Above all, they put the movement at the forefront, as they were aware that it has a very large impact on a child’s all-round development. They encouraged them to spend most of their time in nature, as they have the opportunity to explore with natural material, guess the voices of birds, explore different surfaces with all their senses, create beautiful art products from natural materials, etc. They were aware that many parents work from home and want

to employ the child at least for a while with independent play. They suggested ideas for their own production of didactic toys (various plugs, sorting by colors, transferring balls to a muffin tin, gluing self-adhesive sheets to a cupboard, weaving a string through a strainer, pouring water from one container to another. In this way, they kept in touch with their group at all times. Some parents responded, sending photos, comments to the children. They could hardly wait for the moment when they could hug in person as well, and not just across the screen.

At the reunion in the kindergarten, certain activities, such as singing songs, listening to the soundtracks of fairy tales, movement or talking about well-being, were also revived live. The situation was quite stressful from the point of view of providing information, as the educators were aware that they could not and should not burden their parents too much.

Upon the reopening of the kindergartens, the parents of the children entrusted them with the hardships in which they found themselves in the first wave of the epidemic when the kindergartens were closed. They referred to the coordination of work obligations, the schooling of children and the care of pre-school children. On several occasions, they helped school children with their school obligations because they were not able to complete them on their own, and at the same time they had to take care of the needs of pre-school and kindergarten children. With the parents' answers, they wondered how the preschool children experienced the epidemic, how they expressed their emotions and how the parents reacted to them.

And how did that reflect on us at school?

Already in the first wave of infections, in March 2020, the teachers agreed on how the remote work would take place in the event of the school closing. We started the school year in September and welcomed students in 1st grade who were the 3rd generation of children to learn the *World of Numbers* and also play in *Willie's world of Numbers*. We were still in school in October, and after the autumn holidays, schooling started from home. The teachers prepared all the educational content through Zoom or Teams.

Teacher Ines, who teaches with educator Nataša in 1st grade, said: "Every morning we met on the computer at Zoom, where I greeted them and told them what we were going to do that day. We prepared assignments for each subject separately in an easy way, as we were aware that some parents could not sit

next to the child all the time and help him. Together with my dog Casy, we read them fairy tales, sang songs, exercised, created, learned about numbers… When we were learning to count numbers, she ate cookies in front of the screen. See attached PPT presentations.
Together with the children we performed various activities in front of the screens for almost 3 months, which is probably the longest “Computer week” among our partners in the project!
Hopefully, we will never have lessons from home for so long again, even though we have learned a lot in a different way.

Ines with her beloved dog Cassy.

Primary School Kamnica, Slovenia.