

International ELINET Symposium 2018
“Literacy in the 21st Century: Participation – Inclusion – Equity”.

July 23-24, 2018, Cologne, Germany



Good Practice Session I: Creating a more literate environment

Chairs: Eufimia Tafa, University of Crete, Greece & Renate Valtin, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany

Tuesday, July 24, at 10.00–11.00

Location: Seminar Building / Room S 23

LITERACY CHANGES LIVES.

Recent changes in the Czech Republic’s pre-school education system

Presenter:

Marie Ernestová

University of South Bohemia,
Czech Reading Association

From September 2017 kindergarten attendance became compulsory for all 5-year-old children in the Czech Republic. The main aim is to help children from socially disadvantaged families to prepare for entering formal primary education at 6. The fact that the new regulation has made kindergarten attendance mandatory has generated heated discussions among both experts and the general public. Of course the new law has created a need for developing new teaching materials and new teaching methodologies. Implementation will be financed through the *Research, Development and Education Operational Programme (RDEOP)*, which is supported by EU Social and Investment Funds. The main objective of the *RDEOP* is to ultimately equip young people with more appropriate skills for a future labour market that will be designed to provide quality opportunities for all job-seekers. This will be achieved by ensuring equity and quality in education as well laying the groundwork for future quality research. The programme focuses on supporting and developing every child’s personal potential so that they can make best use of their individual interests, skills and other qualities later in life.

In addition, the Czech National Institute for Education has just launched a project focusing on literacy development in kindergartens and primary schools. Reading literacy is to be implemented through campaigns such as: „*We Read to Children Since Childhood*“, and in the next school year this project will be tested in selected schools, using new methodologies.

Another educational project established since the new law came into effect is called „*Teddy Bear NIVEA Helps Children in Their Preparation for School*“. It is sponsored by a commercial company, but is not a spin-off from a product promotion project. It involves 400 kindergartens in Czechia and 100 in Slovakia and teaching materials include copy books, exercises for pre-schoolers, letter games, jigsaws etc, as well as advice for teachers on teaching reading and natural science literacy.

References:

Ernestová M. (2003): Effective Integration of Literature in Classroom Instruction (The Czech Republic’s Experience – past and present). In: *Current Challenges in Literature*, Huy, Belgium, pp. 66-68, IBAN BE81 3601 0067 9124, electr. format IBAN: BE 81 3601 0067 8124.

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Ernestová M. (2007): Promoting Reading and Writing in Linguistically and Ethnically Diverse Communities in the Czech Republic. In: *Thinking Classroom*, Vol. 8, Issue 3, July, pp. 34-40, ISSN 1392-947X

Ernestová M. (2017): Teaching Initial Reading and Writing at the very Beginning of Compulsory School Attendance in the Czech Primary School. M.Boeck/A. Hudelist/F. Auernig (Eds.) In: *Literacy in the New Landscape of Communication*. Austrian Literacy Association, Graz, Section II, Chapter 14, pp. 119-131, ISBN: 978-3-200-05486-8 <https://lesenschreibenaustria.wordpress.com>

Ernestová M. (2018): Methods Currently Used in the Czech Republic for Promoting Child Reading. In: *Kielikukka Journal 1/2018*, Finnish Reading Association, pp. 26-29

Opravilová Eva; Uhlířová Jana (2017): *Příběhy české mateřské školy (A History of the Czech Kindergarten – Development and changes of preschool education up till 1948)*. Faculty of Education, Charles University, Prague

Bio Note:

Marie Ernestová, PhDr., accomplished her graduate and postgraduate studies and her Doctorate at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague. From 1970 to 1988, she taught at the Ceske Budejovice School of Foreign Languages, and was then appointed as a senior lecturer to the Faculty of Education, University of South Bohemia. Here she was tasked with establishing a new English Department. She had diverse teaching commitments, but specialised in general and applied linguistics, focusing particularly on evolution of English grammar and lexical binomials. She also devoted considerable research time to the teaching methods in English as a Foreign Language and Czech early childhood education. She established the Czech Reading Association in 2000 and represents it on the Federation of European Literacy Associations. She has been a major author/compiler in the recent ELINET Project, and is a long-standing member of the Association of Modern Languages.