

“Development of the “FAMILY BY PLAY”

- method for use with children in vulnerable families”

Organizations: CEKAS and HoSt Home-Start Czech Republic (HoSt)

Project duration: 2017 -2020

Project introduction:

The goal of the project is to further develop our own "FAMILY BY PLAY" method as part of professional work with family. The method is exclusively non-diagnostic and will be easy to use for social workers and volunteers going to families. We will use specially designed toys. We want the method help to understand and explain the inconvenient situation in the family from the point of view of all its members with the emphasis on the opinion of the child. Our support is directed towards families that no one assists with a wide range of daily problems. The priority is to strengthen the mutual interaction of family members and the search for their options and support in finding a good and functioning communication model. The method helps to reveal the hidden potential of a family, its strengths. It is an intuitive and natural way of contacting the child and his / her parent. Method will be useful not only for working with families but also for the larger group of children in our therapeutic-educational program with Montessori elements so called „kindergarten by play“. The program is designed for socially disadvantaged parents with children (Montessori approach is used in the Czech Republic by richer families and for our clients is financially inaccessible). In this program we are working with a specific one group of parents / mothers with children living in an unnatural environment (shelter houses) and lacking positive mother-child interactions. We will work with researchers from two departments of Charles University in Prague to develop the method to ensure the quality and scientific framework of the new method. We will build unique center in the Czech Republic that will combine the theoretical and scientific methods / approaches with direct practice in terrain. These two areas are usually separate in the Czech Republic. Students and academic staff will have direct contact with fieldwork - social workers, volunteers and staff of the „kindergarten by play“ program and vice versa.

During the project we will work with at least 80 families and 135 children, there will be at least 90 children in the „kindergarten“ program.

Activities:

Activity 1: "Family by Play" - development of a new practical method through PLAY in families with children threatened by neglect.

Activity 2: "Kindergarten by Play" - a therapeutically educational program for families with children from socially weak environment. Continuation of the Montessori traditions approach and use of its principles to work with families where there is a risk of neglecting a child.

Activity 3: Scientific Observation - collaboration with University Departments of Charles University in Prague (Consultation, supervision, scientific reports and evaluation).

Activity 4: Development of „the CENTER for complex care for families with children endangered by neglect“ as a base for voluntary and professional work and study and scientific activities supporting work with families (with the support of university departments and overlapping into educational activities).

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CEKAS, z. ú., www.cekas.eu

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