

DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSFUL READING PROGRAMME	
PROGRAMME TITLE: “Peter Cat – Playing with a book”	
PROGRAMME ORGANISER(S): <i>Fundacja Edukacji i Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Obywatelskiego</i> ( <i>Foundation of Education and Development of the Society</i> )	
Description Created by LiRe Partner Institution: <b>W.J Grabski Public Library in Ursus / Poland</b>	
<b>Time &amp; Place</b>	<b>Target Group(s)</b>
<b>Łódź, Poland / 2008-2009</b>	<b>Children in the age 4-8 years old</b>
<b>Short Description (Max. 200 words)</b>	
<p>The programme “Peter Cat – playing with a book” was based on the cooperation among Łódź University, kindergartens, primary schools and public libraries in Łódź. The stories about Peter Cat as well as the ready-to-use activities were available on the website <a href="http://www.kotpiotrek.pl">www.kotpiotrek.pl</a>. The texts were expected to be used for fun, stimulation and creativity. They were also a means of communication between children and their educators (teachers and librarians). The programme started with a seminar for teachers, students, librarians and parents, who volunteered to create the stories and the activity plans. Then they disseminated the programme among the educational institutions in the city.</p>	
<b>Objectives (General &amp; Specific)</b>	
<p><b>General Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to promote reading and inspire educators and children to use reading material in playing together.</li> <li>- to prove, that even with a small but motivated staff and a very limited budget, it is still possible to organise successful reading promotion activities and reach out to different groups of children.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Objectives:</b></p> <p>Children were expected to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be inspired to share their thoughts and feelings with other students</li> <li>- to spend exciting time, playing with literary texts.</li> <li>- to discover close connections between literature, other arts and pleasure.</li> <li>- to develop art skills of children</li> </ul>	
<b>Scheme of Reading Promotion Actions &amp; Activities</b>	
<p>The programme included the following actions and activities, led by public libraries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Games that involved books</li> <li>- Creative writing</li> <li>- Dramatization of book excerpts</li> <li>- Drawing characters and scenes from books</li> <li>- Making crosswords</li> <li>- Making quizzes</li> <li>- Activities involving music and dance</li> <li>- Dramatization of stories invented by the pupils</li> <li>- Watching theatre or film versions of books</li> <li>- Illustrating stories, using different art techniques</li> <li>- Making own exhibitions</li> <li>- Reading promotion poster competition</li> <li>- Trips to visit exhibitions</li> </ul>	

**Results / Indicators of Success**

The participating teachers and librarians judged the programme as being successful. A total of 1500 children from schools and kindergartens took part.

Indicators of success were:

- positive atmosphere among children and educators
- intense creativity of participating children
- involvement of the children in the activities
- improvement of social skills
- good results from the group work
- increasing children's knowledge of literature
- increasing children's skills of creating their own stories
- introduction of students to new methods of learning through books
- the children's communication with their teachers
- creation of many new ideas for activities, useful for teachers and librarians, based on the stories about Peter Cat.

**CONCLUSIONS**

(WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHY)

- It was very important, that many teachers, librarians, university students and parents took part in the programme as volunteers.
- Enough time and effort was devoted to creating new activities, based on literature and art.
- The total programme was financed by the Ministry of Culture, what was very important for the participating institutions.
- Children were actively involved and engaged in all aspects of the programme
- Creative thinking was a very important aspect of the programme.
- The programme needed close cooperation between educational and cultural institutions and focussed on increasing the awareness of children to the importance of reading in their lives.

**References:**

[www.kotpiotrek.pl](http://www.kotpiotrek.pl)