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Vrtić Kindergarten



Stories and songs from Letterland

SUThe International kindergarten Horizons is located in one of the most beautiful and greenest parts of Zagreb. At Zelengaj 6, little ones from various countries, including Croatia, say their first words in English. What is sometimes difficult for adults, the playful girls and boys consider absolutely

normal. They quickly adopt the knowledge of the English language, and have a lot of fun doing so, under the watchful eye of professional child care experts. As of last autumn, foreigners in Zagreb don't have to worry about their preschool children, and Zagrebians who want their children to le-

arn the much needed language as soon as possible have finally gotten what they waited for.

-We existed as an English speaking playschool for four years, and as of last autumn, the kindergarten was opened. Our ten-hour English program wash approved by the mi-

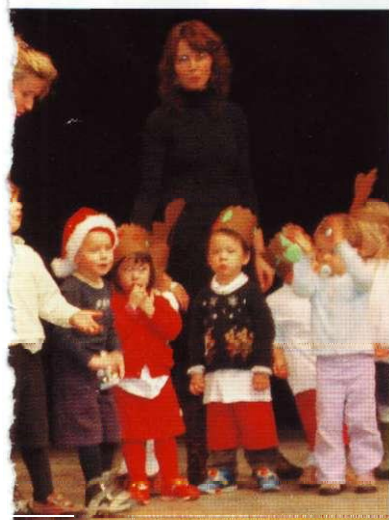
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Educating according to British standards

The Horizons kindergarten operates according to the standards of the British Foundation Curriculum. The program is formed to fulfil the needs of children who come from various areas and of various nationalities. The

children participate in projects in the areas of geography, science, arts and the like, and along with learning the language, they also learn mathematics, listen to music, read books and develop their creative artistic talents.



Individual approach to children

In contrast to the other, overpacked kindergartens, where children often receive little attention, Horizons offers each child an individual approach. Children are placed in small groups which are formed according to their age.

- Our aim is to create a motivational environment for learning while playing. The individual approach allows us to care for the emotional, intellectual and social needs of each and every child - explained the headmaster.

 nistry. We accept the children of foreigners, but Croatian children as well. Zagrebians enrol their children in the kindergarten because they want their children to learn English from the start, and foreigners find it natural because they're continuing using a language that they know - says Milena Prodan-Tisma, headmaster of the kindergarten Horizons.

Childcare experts work alongside with pedagogues and medical experts. Everything is taken care of in Horizons.

- The teachers have passed their professional exams and they have all the required English language certificates. We also have a pedagogue in the kindergarten who works side by side with the teachers and children. She records the pedagogical documentation and gives weekly reports to the parents. Twice a month, a nurse comes to the kindergarten, she works with the children and teachers, and takes care of the medical documentation since each child in our kindergarten has an archived history of illnesses and inoculations - says the headmaster.

The best way to learn is through games, and the literature used by the children is of the highest standard and comes straight from the cradle of the English language.

- In Letterland, children get to know letters through characters, stories, rhymes and songs. The most important thing is that there is no rigorous learning, but the children learn everything through games. That method has proven itself to be an excellent method of learning, and parents have enthusiastically accepted it. All the literature is ordered in from England. We now have a large number of titles which includes literature for the teachers, so they perfect their skills daily in that way - explains Mrs. Prodan-Tisma.

The kids in the Horizon kindergarten are never bored. Other than having their daily learning program, they also enjoy outings, visits to cultural institutions as well as celebrations, and the-

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HI ir nutritional needs are met by an expert team, which comes up with tasty and healthy meals.

- At the end of the year, in our beautiful green garden, we organize a get together with the parents and a special picnic program, and at Christmas time, we go to the theatre for a Christmas celebration. During the year, we take the children on trips to theatres, museums, and the Zoo. The children have breakfast, a snack, and fruit snack, along with lunch which is prepared by a caterer, and adapted to their age and caloric needs - said the headmaster. Along with the various educational programs at Horizon, the children also have a huge grassy yard at the edge of a dense forest available to them, and being outside and playing in the open air are their favourite activities.

Obzori je međunarodni dječji vrtić
na zagrebačkom Zelengaju

Horizons is an international kindergarten
on Zagreb's Zelengaj



Priče i pjesme iz Letterlanda

DUBRAVKO MIHIĆ

TOMISLAV MI LETIĆ

U jednom od najljepših i najzelenijih dijelova Zagreba smjestio se Međunarodni dječji vrtić Obzori (International kindergarten Horizons).

Na veseloj adresi Zelengaj 6 mališani iz raznih zemalja i Hrvatske svoje prve rečenice izgovaraju na engleskom jeziku. Ono što odraslima katkada teško ide, razigranim djevojčicama i dječacima po-

sve je normalno. Brzo usvajaju znanje jezika, a uz to se izvrsno zabavljaju pod brižnim nadzorom stručnih odgojitelja. Od prošle jeseni stranci u Zagrebu više nemaju brige kamo s predškolskom dje-

com, a Zagrepčani koji žele da im djeca već u najranijoj dobi nauče toliko potreban jezik napokon su dobili ono što su dugo čekali,

- Četiri godine postojali smo kao igraonica na engleskom

Sva literatura za djecu i odgojiteljice dolazi iz Engleske, a engleski je ključni jezik u vrtiću

All the literature for the children and teachers comes from England, and English is the key language in the kindergarten

jeziku, a od prošle jeseni otvoren je vrtić. Naše desetosatne programe na engleskom jeziku verificiralo je mjerodavno ministarstvo. Primamo djecu stranaca, ali i naših državljana. Zagrepčani upisuju djecu u vrtić jer žele da mališani iz prve ruke nauče engleski jezik, a strancima je to prirodno jer nastavljaju na jezik koji poznaju - kaže Milena Prodan-Tišma, ravnateljica vrtića Obzori.

Stručni odgojitelji dopunjuju se u brizi za djecu s pedagogima i medicinarima. U Obzorima ništa nije prepušteno slučaju.

- **Odgojiteljice su** prošle stručna usavršavanja i imaju sve potrebne certifikate za engleski jezik. U vrtiću imamo i pedagoginju koja radi s odgojiteljima i djecom. Ona vodi pedagošku dokumentaciju i tjedno daje izvještaj roditeljima. U vrtić dva puta mjesečno dolazi medicinska sestra, radi s djecom i odgojiteljima te se brine o medicinskoj dokumentaciji jer kod nas svako dijete ima arhivirane povijesti bolesti i cijepljenja - kaže ravnateljica.

Najbolje se uči kroz igru, a literatura kojom se mališani služe najviših je standarda i dolazi iz kolijevke engleskog jezika.

- **U Letterlandu** djeca se upoznaju sa slovima kroz likove, priče, rime i pjesme. Bit je da nema strogog učenja, već da djeca sve rade kroz igru. Ta se metoda pokazala izvrsnim načinom učenja, a i roditelji su je oduševljeno prihvatili. Sva se literatura naručuje iz Engleske. Sada posjedujemo velik broj naslova među kojima je i literatura za odgojitelje, pa se oni svakodnevno usavršavaju i na taj način - objašnjava gđa Prodan-Tišma.

Mališanima u vrtiću Obzor nikad nije dosadno. Osim svakodnevnoga stručnog odgajateljskog programa, uživaju i u izletima, posjetima kulturnim ustanovama kao i svečanostima, a za njihovu se prehranu brine stručni tim koji sastavlja ukusne i zdrave me-

Odgajanje prema **britanskim standardima**

U vrtiću Obzori radi se prema standardima British Foundation Curriculum. Program je sastavljen kako bi izašao u susret potrebama djece pristigle iz različitih sredina i različitih nacionalnosti. Djeca su-

djeluju u projektima s područja zemljopisa, znanosti, umjetnosti i slično, a uz jezik uče matematiku, slušaju glazbu, čitaju knjige i razvijaju svoje kreativne talente s područja umjetnosti.



Individualan pristup **djetetu**

Za razliku od ostalih, pretrpanih vrtića, gdje djeca često dobivaju malo pažnje, u Obzorima se svakom mališanu pristupa individualno. S djecom se radi u malim grupama koje su sastavljene na temelju njihove dobi.

- **Cilj nam** je stvoriti poticajno okruženje za učenje kroz igru.

- **Individualnim pristupom** promoviramo emocionalne, intelektualne i društvene potrebe svakog djeteta - objašnjava ravnateljica.

Nema strogog učenja i sve se radi kroz igru jer djeca tako najbolje upijaju znanje

The learning style isn't strict, and everything is done through games, because that is how children learn best

nije.

- Na kraju godine u svom prekrasnom zelenom dvorištu organiziramo druženje s roditeljima i poseban program na pikniku, a o Božiću s djecom idemo u kazalište na božićnu svečanost. Tijekom godine djecu vodimo u posjet kazalištima, muzejima i zoološkom vrtu. U vrtiću djeca imaju organiziran doručak, užinu i voćne obroke, a ručak, koji stiže catterinom, prilagođen je njihovom uzrastu i kalorijskim potrebama - kaže ravnateljica.

Uz najrazličitije odgojne programe djeci u Obzorima na raspolaganju je i golemo travnato dvorište na rubu guste šume, a boravak na čistom zraku i igra na otvorenom njihove su najmilije aktivnosti.

