



WHAT ARE KINDERGARTENS OF THE 21ST CENTURY LIKE?

Summary of the conference „The joy of art - the art of joy”

As we know, everyday life in the 21st century, as well as the children of these days are different from what they used to be. As modern societies become more heterogeneous, the family environment from which the children arrive to kindergarten is also getting more diverse. It is thus impossible to live a simple life in a world this complex. Just as it is impossible not to realise that the interrelations of today's children going to kindergarten are on the one hand, very similar to what they used to be like, however, from certain aspects, they are utterly different.

Not to mention that because families are present in children's lives in new, different ways, the pedagogical co-operation with them has transformed.

Our short film depicting the essence of the Blum program:

<https://vimeo.com/294314537> (password: blum)

The complex approach and toolkit of the Blum personality development pedagogics program for kindergartens offers an opportunity to achieve these goals and possibilities of growth and growing through art in childhood. This has been first introduced on the 19th of October 2018 at the conference The joy of art - the art of joy, opened by Márta Bácskai, founder of the Blum program 14 years ago.

Organised in the Teleki-Tisza Mansion of Nagykovácsi, Hungary, the Blum conference was attended by more than 200 pedagogical professionals, working with the kindergarten education of the Z and Alpha generation of our rapidly changing world.

Presentations were held during the first half of the conference, to get a glimpse of the synthetic pedagogical mindset of the Blum program, and guests were able to get to know its practical activities. In the afternoon, the guests participated in workshops, where they had the chance to experience the practice of the complex artistic pedagogical training of the Blum program.

- 320 kindergarten teachers have attended our trainings.
- During the conference, workshops were held in the following topics: drama, tales & puppetry, musical therapy, visual arts and motion therapy, kindergarten application of Information and Communication Technology, techniques to involve parents.

The main goal of the conference was for the Blum program to show that the cultivation of certain branches of art in kindergarten not only enhances certain skills, but used in complexity, could help the personal development of children. The drama, the tales, the puppetry, the music therapy, the visual and motion arts applied together and in complexity have therapeutic effects as well as they facilitate the chances of inclusivity within a group. The theoretical basis of all this was presented by Dr. Anna Bakonyi, the pedagogical expert of the program, Dr. Bénédicte Défontaines and Bertrand Schoentgen PhD, researchers of the French neurological team cooperating with the Blum program, while its practical effectiveness evaluation was introduced in a compelling discourse by sociologist Eszter Bakonyi PhD.

- Compared to a control group, kids involved in the Blum program became more creative, cooperative problem-solvers, and none of them were excluded during their interactions.

The introductory conference of the Blum program in October was also attended by various Hungarian celebrities, including paralympic champion swimmer Dóra Pásztory, who also uses complex artistic methods in raising her son; Artisjus Award winning singer, songwriter Adrienn Szekeres, who has been acquainted with the program for 14 years; and Krisztián Nyári, literary historian, writer, publisher, who is also a dedicated supporter of the program.

Learn more about the Blum program on the following website: www.blumprogram.hu

