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Children with special needs

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Basic School Act defines who are children with special needs

children with mental disabilities

children with physical disabilities

blind children and children with visual impairments

children with long-term illness

deaf children and children with hearing impairments

children with learning problems in specific fields of education

children with speech problems

children with emotional and behavioural disorders

gifted children

Guidance of Children with Special Needs Act specifies

Some characteristics of groups of children with special needs.

Principles and strategies of working with children with special needs.

Extra help, special attention, adjustments.

Possible educational programs.

Qualifications of experts helping children with special needs.

Guidance Order/ A special order which gives us directions how to work with a child.

Guidance Commission (experts in Commission and their responsibilities).

Cooperation with parents.

Evaluation of individualised programme and child's progress.

Children with special needs have the option to attend:

Regular schools
and
nursery schools.

Units in regular
schools with the
lower standards
programmes.

Schools with the
lower standards
programmes.

Units in
specialised
institutions.

Guidance procedure/how children get additional professional assistance in the school

We describe child's functioning, his/her difficulties and also his/her good abilities.

Parents have to require special help for their child.

Guidance commission outside the school examines the child and decides/suggests:

- What kind of school should the child attend.
- What kind of adjustments, special treatment he/she needs to overcome the deficiencies, barriers and/or disorders.
- Number of hours of additional professional assistance.

Guidance procedure/how children get additional professional assistance in the school

These decisions are written in Guidance Order and in the child's individualised programme.

Every child has his own personal file for individualised programme and other documentation during primary school.

Some conclusions

A large majority of children with special needs attend regular schools, where they are provided with additional professional assistance.

Cooperation of parents and competent professionals, who design an individualised programme is very important for child's success.

Child's needs must be recognised as soon as possible and early.

We need more support for teachers.

Our school in year 2010/2011

17 pupils with learning problems in specific fields of education attend our school this school year.

The most common adjustments they need for overcoming disabilities are:

- Sitting in front of the teacher, away from different negative stimuli.
- Working/learning with concrete materials.
- Simple questions, structures.
- Extra time for learning and writing tests.
- Extra hours of additional professional assistance and learning assistance.
- Professional who guides child during some lessons, explains instructions for working/learning.

Reading activities for children with special needs:

Learning about reading strategies and using them (before, during and after reading, *for example Pauk's strategy, VŽN strategy*)

Gap fill.

Learning by small steps.

Learning strategies for different learning fields.

Multi sensual learning.

Learning with examples and simple instructions.

Reading activities for children with special needs:

Explaining with the help of pictures (visual aids).

Connection with experiences.

Learning with motion (*for example: Jump as many times as many figure tens you see*).

Gifted children

- We identify them in the fourth grade or later, but only if parents agree.
- There are three kinds of tests:
 - intellectual,
 - creativity test and
 - teachers' standardized assessments.

We define 11 special abilities:

learning abilities

intellectual abilities

theatrical abilities

technical abilities

music abilities

art abilities

creativity

literary abilities

psychomotorical abilities

movie/film abilities

leadership abilities

Our school in year 2010/2011

27 identified gifted children attend our school this school year.

We prepare individualized programme for everyone according to his/her giftedness.

We make our school programme for gifted children which offers them:

- Being involved in different projects.
- Writing and translating stories/books.
- Taking part in art and literary contests.
- Program for personal and social development.
- Preparation for competitions in different learning fields.
- Researching projects.
- Making short videos ...

Reading activities for gifted children:

Bibliotherapy

Reciprocal reading

Translating

Researching

Literary contests

Visualization

Role playing

Mental challenges

Unfinished thoughts

Brainstorming

Associations

Anagrams, quiz

Continuing the story

Foretelling of continuation

Changing a famous story and making a new one.

Comparing two or more stories, actors.

Reading activities for gifted children:

Giving the appropriate title to a story.

Becoming school ceremony-forecaster/moderator.

Tutors relationship.

Thank you for your attention.