

Conference paper

„Storytelling to promote competence development in early childhood education“

 28 May, 10.00 - 15.30

Manavgat İlçe Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü

 23 June 2016, 9.30 - 16.00

wisamar Bildungsgesellschaft gemeinnützige GmbH

„Some people think we’re made of flesh and blood and bones. Scientists say we’re made of atoms. But I think we are made of stories. When we die, that’s what people remember, the stories of our lives and the stories that we told.“

Ruth Stotter

Introduction

Stories - for entertainment, to relax, but also for educational purposes and targeted competence development already in early childhood education. Stories- as teaching method - as „highest form of teaching“ according to the neurobiologist Gerald Hüther- under the condition that they are told well.

In the EU funded project „Sinbad“ we combined all this. We dealt with the concept of competence, the selection of appropriate stories, the structure and finally the telling of stories. In addition, we focused on possibilities how to actively involve children in the narrative process in order to support their competence development based on stories with different activities.

The project results were presented at two multiplier events, in Manavgat(Turkey) and Leipzig (Germany). This conference paper summarises the two events.



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1) Multiplier event Manavgat, Turkey

a. Summary of the event

The final conference of “Sinbad- a journey to promote key competences in early childhood education through storytelling” was organized at the meeting hall of Manavgat Adult Education Center on Saturday May 28, in 2016. The event started at 10 a.m.

The director of Directorate of National Education of Manavgat Mr. Muammer Saridemir made an opening speech to welcome the participants. Then the project contact person Mr. Hasan Biber gave a presentation about the project with its international and local activities, aims and intellectual outputs.

Mr. Thomas Korcz representing Wisamar Bildungsgesellschaft gGmbH gave important background information about storytelling as educational method in his presentation “Storytelling as an innovative approach in education”. He was assisted by a translator in his speech.

Then a presentation on “Key competences” was held by Miss Ayfer Yavuz who is the headmistress of Hayme Hatun Kindergarten which is one of the local partners and stakeholders from the beginning of the project.

Participants were able to socialize and share experiences with each other during the coffee break of about 10 minutes.

After the coffee break Mr. Arif Aytekin, assistant professor doctor, representing Akdeniz University located in Antalya gave an interactive speech and presentation on “Creativity and innovation in education”.

Miss Tuğba Yanar a kindergarten teacher from Manavgat Kindergarten which is the other local partner and stakeholder of the Sinbad project informed afterwards about “The importance of storytelling at pre-school education”.

“Dede Korkut: Ancient Turkish Storyteller” was introduced by Mr. Ali Demircioğlu who is a primary school teacher working at Atatürk Primary School.

The last presentation of the morning session was given by Mr. Yusuf Sirkeci who is a primary school teacher at Atatürk Primary School. He shared a part of an interview and made a presentation of “Judith Liberman: A contemporary storyteller” living in Turkey for more than a decade.

After lunch the conference went on with Mr. Sırrı Karakaş who is a primary school teacher working at Dikmen Primary School. He made a presentation on “The history of Turkish storytelling” full of vivid explanations and examples.

Then it was time for practical storytelling performances by the participants. The names of the storytellers and their stories were:



- Ümmühani Doğan “The wolf and seven goats”
- Hasan Biber “Onions”
- Tuğba Yanar “Shepherd the liar”
- Sırrı Karakaş “A story from the mother”
- Deniz Sert “The girl with golden hair and three bears”
- Yılmaz Rüzgâr “The bald boy and the mountain lion”

After handing over the “Policy Recommendations” to the legal representative of Manavgat District Directorate of National Education, the director Mr. Sarıdemir closed the conference by summarising the main outcomes.

b. Agenda

- 10:00 Opening speech by Muammer Sarıdemir (Director of National Education)
- 10:15 Sinbad project by Hasan Biber (Project Contact Person)
- 10:50 Storytelling as an innovative approach in education by Thomas Korcz (Wisamar Bildungsgesellschaft gemeinnützige GmbH, Germany)
- 11:05 Key Competences by Ayfer Yavuz (Headmistress of Hayme Hatun Kindergarten)
- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:30 Creativity and innovation in education by Arif Aytekin (Assistant Prof. Dr- Akdeniz University)
- 12:00 The importance of storytelling at pre-school education by Tuğba Yanar (Kindergarten Teacher)
- 12:15 Dede Korkut (Ancient Turkish Storyteller) by Ali Demircioğlu (Primary School Teacher)
- 12:30 Presentation of “Judith Liberman-A Contemporary Storyteller” by Yusuf Sirkeci (Primary School Teacher)
- 12:40 Lunch
- 13:50 Turkish Storytelling History Sırrı Karakaş (Primary School Teacher)
- 14:10 Practical storytelling session
 - 6 performances from 5 teachers and 1 external
 - Hasan Biber
 - Tuğba Yanar
 - Sırrı Karakaş
 - Deniz Sert
 - Yılmaz Rüzgar



- Ümmühani Doğan

15:00 Delivery of the “Policy Recommendations” by Hasan Biber

15:10 Closing

c. Materials distributed

All materials can be downloaded at <http://storytelling-online.eu/tr/konferans>

Presentations:

- Hasan Biber
- Thomas Korcz
- Ayfer Yavuz
- Arif Aytakin
- Ali Demircioğlu
- Yusuf Sirkeci

Every participant was given the education pack, leaflets with activities and impressions from the project, notebooks and pens to take notes.

d. Impressions





2) Multiplier event Leipzig, Germany

a. Summary of the event

The multiplier event in Leipzig took place 23 June 2016 at the wisamar seminar room. While the morning session illuminated the topic Storytelling in education from different perspectives, the afternoon session was dedicated to storytelling workshops.

The conference started with a welcome by the project coordinator, Sabine Röhrig-Mahhou, who started with background information about the added value of storytelling in education. Storytelling is the eldest form of communication and teaching, it helps until today to transmit important contents in an attractive and easy understandable way. She referred to the neurobiologist Gerald Hüther who emphasizes that information given with the help of stories are memorized faster and better than facts only thanks to emotions and pictures that activate several brain cells. Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou besides introduced the Sinbad project and showed the main project results.

Right afterwards Peter Frühmann gave a presentation about competence based learning which he had prepared together with Jaap van Lakerveld. He introduced the concept of competence, the EU key competences with their components and the pedagogical framework of the Sinbad project that served as basis for all outputs.

Dr. Michl Zirk, professional storyteller and lecturer at the University Nürnberg-Erlangen, talked about storytelling as teaching method. He especially pointed out the fact that no one - neither University professor nor persons who left school after 9 years - are able to easily understand complicated contents in scientific language. It is the task of all teachers and lecturers to present such contents in an understandable language. Storytelling fosters



phantasy and problem-solving thinking, it besides supports the development of linguistic structures. As teaching method, in addition it brings fun for both, teachers and learners - a good condition for assuring learning progress.

Prof. Dr. Kristin Wardetzky from the University of Arts Berlin and initiator of Erzählzeit (Storytelling time) since years is using storytelling in order to support children with migrant background. She shared her experience and the great added value of stories that even overcome language barriers. She recommended two books for intercultural storytelling: World tales by Idries Shah and the story collection by brothers Grimm (published by Heinz Rölleke).

Prof. Dr. Helga Andresen from the University of Flensburg shared the results of a study in which she initiated a storytelling project for and with children, focusing on their linguistic development. The aim was to motivate children to start telling stories which worked well thanks to a story book where the pre-school teachers wrote down the stories of the children.

Maria Carmela Marinelli, a professional storyteller and theater pedagogue, as last speaker of the morning session, invited the participants to one of the storytelling workshops. She talked about her experiences when telling stories for and with children and already shared one or the other story with the conference participants.

After lunch two parallel workshops took place. Maria Carmela Marinelli focused on the art of storytelling with hands, feet and heart. Her workshop was very practice oriented and concentrated on the presentation of stories. Anne Berger and Sabine Röhrig-Mahhou gave a part of the Sinbad workshops which also included the theoretical background. They introduced the relation to competence development, showed how to remember stories, carried out some activities how to present a story and discussed which competence development activities can be carried out based on the story.

Evaluation questionnaires were handed out to all participants who gave anonymous feedback. Possible marks were:

- 1 (excellent)
- 2 (very good)
- 3 (good)
- 4 (not so good)
- 5 (not good at all)

The average score of the whole conference was 1,58 which is a very good results. Especially the practice oriented storytelling workshop of Maria Carmela Marinelli was highly appreciated but also all other results are promising. Many people already asked for workshops in their premises.

How do you rate the conference as a whole?	1,59
How well was it organised?	1,41



Please rate the length of the event?	1,85
How interesting was the content of the presentations?	1,67
How do you see the quality of the speakers?	1,59
Workshop Maria Carmela Marinelli	1,09
Workshop Anne Berger & Sabine Röhrig-Mahhou	1,78
In how far can you use the contents?	1,67

b. Agenda

9:30 Reception of guests

9:50 Welcome & presentation of the Sinbad project, Sabine Roehrig-Mahhou

10:00 Storytelling for competence development - Introduction into competence based learning, Dr. Jaap van Lakerveld, Peter Frühmann

10:20 Teaching through storytelling, Dr. Michl Zirk - Lessons about storytelling in education at the University Nürnberg-Erlangen and professional storyteller

11:00 Storytelling in an intercultural context - Fairytales as pioneers of migration, Prof.i.R. Dr. sc. Kristin Wardetzky, University of Arts Berlin

11:40 Storytelling for children, Storytelling by children, Storytelling with children - Narrative practices in the elementary sectors, Prof. Dr. Helga Andresen - Europa-Universität Flensburg

12:20 Practical experiences - Storytelling with children, invitation to the workshop, Maria Carmela Marinelli, professional storyteller and drama teacher

12:40 Lunch

13:30 Storytelling workshops:

Storytelling with hands, feet and heart

Maria Carmela Marinelli, professional storyteller and theater pedagogue

Sinbad - Storytelling for the competence development of children (Memorising stories - The own style - Storytelling practice - Active involvement of children and Activities for competence development through stories.

Anne Berger & Sabine Röhrig-Mahhou, wisamar Bildungsgesellschaft gGmbH, Sinbad workshop leaders in Germany



c. Materials

All materials can be downloaded at <http://storytelling-online.eu/de/konferenz>:

- Presentations:
 - o Sabine Röhrig-Mahhou
 - o Peter Frühmann & Jaap van Lakerveld
 - o Prof. Dr. Helga Andresen
- Flyer with information about the Sinbad results and offers that maintain also after the end of the project
- Travel with Sinbad to the world of stories - A story collection for the promotion of competence development in early childhood education through storytelling

d. Impressions



