

DRAMA EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL PROJECT FOCUSED ON EPILEPSY

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Abstract: *This essay describes research educational project focused on enlightenment concerning epilepsy. 1 222 children from the third, fourth and fifth classes from whole Czech Republic participated in this research. Used methods were drama education, lecture and film. Effectiveness of methods was compared through questionnaire enquiry.*

Keywords: *epilepsy , enlightenment, drama education, lecture, film, questionnaire enquiry*

Basis and aims of project:

The basis of all project was programme of Czech league against Epilepsy and EPISTOP (complex project for support people with epilepsy in Czech Republic). The aim was development of knowledge and gain new knowledge about epilepsy for pupils of primary school and their teachers. And further use of drama education as form of enlightenment and compare with another methods (lecture, film).

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Czech league against Epilepsy and especially working group of project EPISTOP Component forms of education was realised by teachers and other pedagogical workers from primary schools and educational institutions from whole of Czech Republic. The research was realised since January 2003 until June 2003.

Research procedure:

Pupils in selected primary schools were acquainted with problems of epilepsy in different ways:

- projection of animated film
- lecture (verbal information about epilepsy)
- lesson of drama education (acting in roles)

Degree of knowledge was surveyed with assistance of questionnaire: before education, immediately after education, six months later. Then these effects were compared.

Questions of questionnaire:

- How can you recognize that somebody has epilepsy?
- What does epileptic seizure look like?
- Your friend threw a fit of epilepsy. What shall you do?
- What do you think of children with epilepsy?
- Children with epilepsy are:
- How should children with epilepsy behave?
- Try to imagine you have epilepsy. What will change in your life?

There were options of answer, one of them was correct.

Method of drama education – description of realization

Themes and basis:

- Main subject – story ADVENTURE ON THE ISLAND
„Children in your age sailed on the boat to the island. Something unusual happened on the island ...“
- Next subjects: RESCUE, CO-OPERATION, FEAR, TIREDNESS

These subjects allowed children to take active part (warm up, connecting and relaxation activities) and then pass through deep experience of „playing“ the story.

Structure of activities:

- warming up activities: *tag, place at my left hand is free, ...* RESCUE
- acting play freeze (expression of feelings, emotions) TIREDNESS, FEAR
- dramatic play *Raft* CO-OPERATION
- *static scene* – relationships and their hierarchy on boats (expression of relationships, states and feelings)
 - short etudes – acting of short stories on the island, selection of interesting aspects, building of static scenes, then teacher assigns a task to pretend signs of epileptic seizure
 - acting in roles hot chair (doctor, parents, informed friend, brother, sister,...):

„There is option to invite somebody who can explain, what is happening with your friend.“ Children usually choose doctor, because they recognize there are some health problems.

Used methods were very simple, so explaining of activities was easier and brief and all of pupils could understand it (regardless of experience with drama education).

This lesson was realised with five classes (3 x in the third class, 2 x in the fifth class).

We offer similar dramatic lesson to schools (and they are very interested) in Lužánky – Centre of leisure time Brno.

Result:

1 222 children from the third, fourth and fifth classes of primary schools participated in this research. Analysis of questionnaires proved projection of animated film was most effective. Next one was lesson of drama education Lecture (verbal information) didn't reach comparable grade.

DRAMATICKÁ VÝCHOVA VE VZDĚLÁVACÍM PROJEKTU O EPILEPSII

Souhrn: Příspěvek popisuje výzkumný vzdělávací projekt zaměřený na osvětu týkající se nemoci epilepsie. Osvěta byla realizována se 1122 žáky ze 3. až 5. tříd ZŠ z celé ČR formou lekce dramatické výchovy, projekce animovaného filmu a výkladu. Účinnost metod byla porovnávána dotazníkovým šetřením.

Klíčová slova: epilepsie, osvěta, dramatická výchova, výklad, film, dotazníkové šetření