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KEEP EDUCATING YOURSELF / KEY 598977-EPP-1-2018-RS-1-EPPKA2-CBRE-JP

Report on Continual Professional Development programs for teachers, educators and professional associates implemented at the Academy of Educational and Medical Vocational Studies, department Kruševac

In accordance with the goals of the KEY project, the **Academy of Educational and Medical Vocational Studies based in Kruševac (AVMSS), department of Kruševac**, applied to the Institute for the Improvement of Education and Training with eleven continual professional development programs for educators, ten of which were awarded the accreditation for 2022/2023 , 2023/2024. and 2024/2025. The Department started implementing the programs in October 2022, and during that month, five trainings were conducted in the premises of the Learning Hub, in which a total of one hundred and fifty educators participated. Educators were informed about the offer of the programs through the Professional Association of Educators of the Rasinski District.

The work of the Learning Center began on October 15, 2022, with the implementation of the program *"The joy of movement - a program for the application of motor games, forms of movement and unstructured materials in stimulating the psychomotor development of children with developmental disabilities"*, catalog number 271, authored and implemented by Dr. Irena Stanišić and Dr. Katarina Tomić. The program was attended by thirty preschool teachers, mostly from the Preschool Institution "Nata Veljković" from Kruševac. The program is accredited for the area Children/students who need additional support in education, with a duration of one day (eight hours). The following topics were covered during the training:

- Typical and atypical development
- The importance of motor skills for child development
- Movement and imitative movement
- Rhythm and rhythmic dance activities

- Movement and practice
- Reeducation of psychomotorics and relaxation

Training was conducted using an interactive method, with plenty of group work and work in pairs. The participants had various unstructured materials at their disposal, from which they designed means to stimulate the motor development of children at an early age (seeds, beads, rice, marbles, cubes, bottles, toys, balls, etc.). The participants were motivated to work, interested in the topic and as a special value of the training they pointed the fact that they got to know new techniques of stimulating motor development by applying everyday material of other purposes. The participants were also interested in getting to know psychomotor reeducation and relaxation techniques, which can be used in everyday work to restructure and develop psychomotor schemes that are the basis of movement and cognition. The average grade with which the participants evaluated the training was 3.94.

Seven days later, on **October 22, 2022**, two trainings were held at the Learning Hub:

1. *"Drama education in the prevention of peer violence"*, authored and implemented by Bisera Jevtić, Ph.D., Zorica Duković, Ph.D., and Slavica Pavličević, M.Sc., and co-implemented by Nevena Jevtić-Trifunović, Ph.D.

This program is accredited for the area of Educational work, the priority area is the improvement of professional - subject-wise methodical, pedagogical and psychological knowledge of employees in education. The catalog number of the program is 49. The training was attended by thirty participants, who covered the following topics over the course of two days (a total of sixteen hours):

- Diagnosing peer violence
- Dramatic expression - method of learning and teaching
- Interpersonal peer conflicts
- Forum theater as a technique of dramatic pedagogy
- Competences of educators in the prevention of peer violence

The average rating of the program by the participants was 4.00. Participants interactively shared experiences related to peer violence and with the help of educators created

concrete models and themes of participatory theater, which can be useful in the prevention of peer violence and the development of non-violent conflict resolution techniques.

2. *"The influence of toxic stress on the early development of brain architecture"*, authored and implemented by Slavica Pavličević, MSc, Katarina Tomić, PhD, and Ivana Petrović. This program is accredited for the priority area Strengthening the competences of employees in preschool institutions for the implementation of the "Years of Ascension" program concept. Given the topicality of systemic changes in the concept of preschool education and teaching, this program aims to bring to educators scientific knowledge related to early brain development, which in the first years of life is very intensive and subject to the influence of numerous environmental factors. Bearing in mind the importance of stimulation and the need to prevent long-term toxic stress in a child's life, which can have permanent developmental consequences, the following topics were covered in this program:

- Early brain development-brain architecture
- Stressors and stressful situations
- Educability of toxic stress
- The importance of supportive relationships with adults
- Risk reduction strategies

The program is accredited under catalog number 882 and includes two days of activities, with a total of ten hours of work. The training was attended by thirty participants, who, during the two-day active learning, gained more detailed knowledge about brain development in children, as well as about new classifications and concepts of stress as an inevitable element of development and adaptation, as well as problems in development. On the second day of the training, the participants created a model of the human brain in groups, using the method of the educational game "Brain architecture game", which had a positive impact on motivation and facilitated the understanding of the complex interaction of factors of inheritance, environment and learning in development.

The training was rated with an average rating of 3.99.

Two more trainings were held **on October 29** in the Department of Kruševac:

1. *"Games with visual elements"*, authored and implemented by Nemanja Panić, M.Sc., and Matija Rajković, M.Sc.

This program, accredited for the field of art, has as its general goal the acquisition of professional knowledge about art elements, action painting and art play. The program is accredited under catalog number 1022, and the training includes one day (eight hours) of activities. This training within the Learning Hub was attended and actively participated by thirty preschool teachers, who developed competencies for using art elements in daily work with preschool children through spontaneous art expression, art games and aesthetic analysis of the elements of art expression. The following topics were covered during the training:

- Artistic elements and artistic language
- Creating an art game
- Action painting

2. *"Computational thinking"*, with authors and implementers Ivan Tomić, MA, Milan Živanović, PhD, Danijela Tomić, Mališa Stevanović, PhD, and Vesna Stevanović, PhD. Thirty educators attended the training, during eight hours (one day) of activities.

This training is accredited under catalog number 390 and is in the field of informatics. The participants of the training were introduced to the following topics:

- Theoretical foundations of computational thinking
- Use of robots in program testing
- Use of applications in the development of computational thinking

The training was based on familiarization with the elements of computational thinking without the application of technology, during which the participants, through workshops, created algorithms with a predefined sequence of steps, with which they tried to solve certain tasks. Considering the topicality and rapid development of information technologies, the participants were highly motivated to work and learn and were ready to define, set up, create a program and summarize and present their solutions in a group activity. The participants were unanimous in recognizing the importance of introducing preschool teachers to computational

thinking, in order to support the development of those activities and interests in preschool children.

The creators and implementers of all professional development programs for educators, who had their "premieres" in the new Learning Hub during the past month, are very satisfied with the start of the Hub's work and are actively working on the promotion of accredited programs to a wider population of experts, through the dissemination of the KEY project and informing the public about activities within the framework of project outcomes.

Krusevac,
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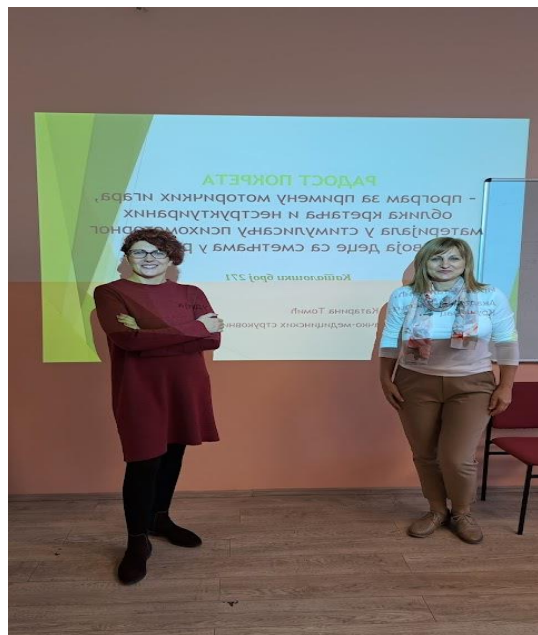
PHOTOS



Games with visual elements, 29. 10. 2022.



Games with visual elements, 29. 10. 2022.



The joy of movement, 15. 10. 2022.



The joy of movement, 15. 10. 2022.



The influence of toxic stress on the early development of brain architecture, 22. 10. 2022.



The influence of toxic stress on the early development of brain architecture, 22. 10. 2022.