

## 7. 1 Structured Professional Reflection and Article Analysis

Professional growth was further assessed through structured individual reflections based on the analysis of a professional article on didactic toys and games. Participants provided written responses to predefined analytical questions, demonstrating critical thinking and pedagogical development.



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Dear partners.

In the folder is a professional article of a preschool teacher who writes about her work on the topic of didactic toys and games. The title of article is **»Igrače malo drugače«**, author is **Eva Zapečnik**, preschool teacher.

Please, read a professional article and answer the questions.

1. What is your opinion about this activity without games and toys?
2. What are the positive and negative points of activity?
3. What would you change?
4. Have you ever do a similar practice as the preschool teacher in contribution?
5. If you answered with YES, then you describe the activity.
6. If you have a pictures, please share it.

Please do and share the task in MS Teams by 17 of January 2025. Each participant does it by herself.

Best regards,  
Nina Borko Bezjak

## 7. 2 KWL Reflection Table



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EXAMPLE: **KWL table**

TOPIC: **Didactics games and toys**

WHAT I KNOW	WANT TO KNOW	WHAT I LEARNED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Using materials that are available to us in the environment for developing speech (create a story);</li> <li>- Placement of the materials according to a certain order (symmetry and balance);</li> <li>-Using natural material for acquiring mathematical concepts (numbers, spatial orientation, classification, series...);</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Combining materials that we can use:</li> <li>- Natural materials (stones, twigs, cones, leaves, chestnuts, acorns)</li> <li>- Natural materials from the environment;</li> <li>-Techniques of working with the necessary materials;</li> <li>- Forms of work;</li> <li>- Work in pairs, groups and individually;</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of materials for research and obtaining sounds;</li> <li>-We use wool, stones, wooden spoons, sticks, etc., to make sensory toys;</li> <li>-Using natural materials to overcome obstacles and develop motor abilities and skills;</li> <li>- Toy making workshop (cooperation with parents)</li> </ul> <p>DJEČJI VRTIČ VUKOVAR I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- choose an appropriate didactic toy/game</li> <li>- use sensory and tactile toys</li> <li>- use dolls made of unformed material</li> <li>- importance for the overall development of the child</li> <li>- make toys from various materials</li> <li>- involve the local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Satisfying curiosity;</li> <li>-Creating a stimulating work environment;</li> <li>- Experimenting with available resources;</li> <li>- Developing curiosity towards nature;</li> <li>-Creative expression with offered materials;</li> </ul> <p>DJEČJI VRTIČ VUKOVAR I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new ideas</li> <li>- how to make didactic toys from unusual material</li> <li>- creating a new toys in a new and different way</li> <li>- creative expression in a different way</li> <li>- sustainability of outdoor toys</li> <li>- to exchange experiences</li> <li>- how materials are used in partner countries</li> </ul>	
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## 7. 3 Structured Reflection and Transfer Model (Adopt, Adapt, Discard Approach)



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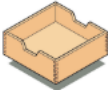

### Evaluation of job shadowing

#### in Dječji vrtić Vukovar

1. What have you learned so far in project?

During the Erasmus project, I learned how to design and adapt didactic games using natural and recycled materials. I deepened my understanding of sensory learning and discovered new ways to encourage children's independence, creativity, and cooperation through play. The exchange also inspired me to enrich my classroom environment with calming and sensory areas that support emotional regulation and fine motor development. This experience enriched me both professionally and personally. It encouraged me to think more sustainably, to appreciate creativity in simple solutions, and to value the power of connection and shared learning beyond national borders.

#### Intermediate activity after every the job shadowing

		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A more thoughtfully designed calming corner with didactic and sensory elements.</li> <li>- organizing more high-quality play and exploration areas with various educational and sensory materials.</li> <li>- making table placemats together with children as a didactic activity that encourages fine motor skills, independence, and a sense of order.</li> <li>- creating board and group games with children, focusing on cooperation, creativity, and the use of natural and recycled materials.</li> <li>- designing and making the didactic game "Match by Touch" – balloons filled with different natural objects that children match with the corresponding photographs.</li> <li>- creating a tactile memory game using various materials (fabric, wool, felt, wood, natural objects).</li> <li>- including activities with wool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designing an outdoor play center from recycled materials.</li> <li>- More extensive individual child portfolios, which include large amounts of written documentation and records.</li> <li>- Including parent questionnaires in children's portfolios.</li> </ul>	

## 7. 4 Pedagogical Observation Framework Used for Monitoring Professional Progress



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### Activity for the month of April

#### 1. Observing children:

- How did the children react to the materials offered?
- What types of exploratory behavior did you notice?
- How did the children cooperate with each other? What forms of social behavior?

#### 2. The role of the educator:

- How did the educator encourage the children's exploration?
- What questions did she ask?
- How did she provide a safe and stimulating learning environment?

#### 3. Using the material:

- How would you assess the suitability of the materials offered according to the children's age?
- What materials would you choose for children of that age?

#### 4. Insight into your practice:

- What appealed to you most in the recording?
- How would you incorporate the same activity into your group?
- What changes would you suggest?

Preparing by Nina Borko Bezjak

## ACTIVITY FOR MARCH

### 1. What do you think about this form of cooperation between kindergartens and parents and children?

This form of collaboration is very valuable, but it requires careful planning, organization, and coordination. It is important to consider the needs of both children and parents. These workshops encourage mutual connection, allow parents to get to know their children's development and the educational work of the teachers, and help strengthen the relationship between children and parents. They also provide children with a valuable creative experience with their loved ones.

### 2. Benefits of this form of cooperation and possible downsides (explain).

#### Advantages:

- Intergenerational bonding.
- Encouraging joint creativity and collaboration in solving challenges during the making process.
- Shared development and learning through experiences.

#### Disadvantages:

- Parents may be overwhelmed and lack the time to participate.
- Possible disappointment for children if their parents are absent.
- Requires more organization, planning, and coordination by the kindergarten.

### 3. What materials could you use in the workshops?

When selecting materials, it is important to consider health and hygiene standards, while also using a wide range of natural and recycled materials:

- Natural materials: wood, wool, pine cones, leaves, appropriately sized stones, shells, moss.
- Recycled materials: cardboard, paper rolls, old fabrics, buttons, fillers, bottle caps, plastic bottles.
- Modeling materials: clay, salt dough.

### 4. How do you encourage parents to get involved in this form of cooperation?

- Send invitations to parents in a timely manner, either in writing or digitally.
- Inform them at the beginning of the school year about the planned activities, so they can better organize their time.
- Emphasize that the workshop is relaxed and suitable for everyone, regardless of creative skills.
- Highlight the benefits of joint creation for the child's development.
- Adjust the workshop schedule to allow for as much participation as possible.
- Share photos and feedback after the event to motivate parents for future participation.

### 5. What do you think about the quality, durability and aesthetics of the manufactured toys?

The toys are of good quality because the children, with the help of their parents, made them themselves. Even if the product is discarded or forgotten over time, the process of making it was essential for the child.

### 6. How would you improve or advance this form of cooperation (explain)?

We would not change our products, as we like them as they are. However, in our groups, we would upgrade this form of collaboration by involving all parents and children in creating one lasting toy for the playroom, which the children could play with throughout the year.

## 7.5 Individual Mobility Reflection and Evidence of Professional Growth

### Evaluation of job shadowing

#### In Kindergarten "Otona Župančiča" Slovenska Bistrica

##### 1. What have you learned so far in the project?

Participation in the project gave me a broad insight into the design and effect of quality play on children's development in our country and abroad. Exchanging opinions, conversations, interviews and good cooperation with colleagues was a good clue to the effectiveness of didactic games and toys, innovation and creativity.

During a visit to the Zg. Polskava unit, we showed colleagues from Macedonia and Croatia how our day goes. The emphasis was on didactic games that are aimed at child development and the practical usefulness and accessibility of various materials from nature and recycling.

In cooperation with colleagues, I prepared an exhibition of didactic games and toys, with which I presented some of the working methods in our kindergarten.

All of us participating in the project quickly established communication and spent the week successfully and relaxed. Together we attended a workshop where we presented ourselves by making a game/toy, strengthened our creativity, exchanged ideas, and encountered new innovative approaches in the field of our mission.



Mateja Šrimf



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## Evaluation of job shadowing

### in OJUDG »7 SEPTEMVRI«, Pehčevo, North Macedonia

#### 1. What have you learned so far in project?

As part of the "Didactic Games and Toys" project, during my exchange at the OJUDG "7 SEPTEMVRI" kindergarten in Pehčevo, North Macedonia, I learned how important creativity, natural materials, and recycling are in raising children. I was impressed by how educators use materials from nature and waste materials, such as cardboard, Styrofoam, and other simple tools, to create didactic games. This approach encourages sustainable thinking and at the same time strengthens children's imagination and motor skills.

During my exchange, I was inspired by how systematically the teachers incorporated elements of national heritage into their pedagogical work, allowing children to develop a sense of national identity and belonging. An important insight for me was also the value of shared moments (morning outdoor gatherings), which strengthen the sense of community, belonging, and create a positive atmosphere in the kindergarten. I was impressed by the use of the electronic educational tool Beebot, which encouraged me to reflect on how I can also integrate modern technology into my work in an innovative way, combining it with play, exploration, and learning. I gained new practical knowledge about the technique of wool felting, which gave me the idea to create a portable mini puppet theatre. I also noticed a strong emphasis on the use of natural materials, which allow children to freely manipulate, explore, and co-create. All the ideas and inspiration I gained during the project will be thoughtfully adapted and introduced into my own group, considering the age, interests, and needs of the children.



Nina Borko Bezjak 14. 04. 2025 08:48

**Dear colleagues.**

I am adding activity for April. Please watch the video and answer the questions in folder for April. The topic of video is about experimenting with materials. Complete the activity by April 30th.

Best regards.

Nina

[https://youtu.be/5OX1jGM\\_ems](https://youtu.be/5OX1jGM_ems)

 YouTube



**Greelco Belgium - Experimenting with materials**

Greelco

64 views · one year ago

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pogoji uporabe in dovoljenja.



Odgovor