

PARENTS COMMITMENT IN THEIR CHILDREN EDUCATION

1. Introduction

Parents are the most interested in their children education. Sometimes they are lost and the put their questions out about how to focus their education and the way to participate in their children school system.

In the Comenius Project, a group of teachers from the "Angel de Saavedra School" together with the Parents Association, planned to create a real debate about the problems children have at school where parents could participate and help the teachers and their students.

These are the main aims of our project

2 Objectives of the Project

The main aim of our Project is to build some strategies to exchange experiences and find out solutions to their problems in common so that school life and family life could go coordinated.

The specific objectives are:

- Exchange information about their children education through parents visits to school or the web.
- Exchange positive experiences among parents.
- Build our parents self-confidence about how to deal with adolescents.
- Give parents the possibility to participate at school.
- Build the 'empowerment', so as to develop the necessary strategies to continue the Project and create as many different experiences as possible. Built a web page for parents to consult.

3 Project steps.

A. Writing the Project.

We thought about the projects as a area of debate and exchange among parents, where everybody can participate in the same level of

category, and where there are no experts or people with specific knowledge about the subject.

The idea of bringing experts to the forum is carried out by the educational authorities in other places like "Parents schools". We are trying to discuss about topics that parents are interested in, and get practical solutions to their common problems. That is why it is important the high participation of parents in the project

B. Agreeing on the topics.

The following step to give content to the project was to detect the real needs and topics of interest of parents. We asked them several questions and they had to point out some of the main topics that they wanted to discuss. We divided them in several areas:

- How to learn habits
- Emotional Education
- Mother and father different roles
- Children development and learning needs
- Different ways of learning

We introduced some open questions so that parents could feed back their own interests apart from the ones we had presented to them

C. Sessions arrangement.

Once we found out about the interests of parents we set some of the sessions to begin. According to the questions asked to parents, the topics that they are more motivated and interested to talk and discuss with others parents and teachers were:

- How to make children respect others.
- How to say no, or how to decide about the limits
- How to deal with their relationship with others.
- What do adolescents wait from their families especially from their parents.
- How to develop the idea of becoming o good citizen and fight violence

We set 4 sessions, one every two months.

1. We wrote a letter to every family.
2. We made a poster to promote the meetings

3. We talked to some parents that we knew that they were motivated and asked them to spread the news on some parents
4. We wrote a little note just before every meeting to remind them of the importance of their attendance

We were helped by the Parents association to do this.

D. How to organise the debates

Every debate will be arranged by a group of teachers and parents. They will try to present some clear objectives, and define the contents of the meeting with a methodology and finally an evaluation of the results

E. Development Of. sessions

There will be a presenter of the meeting and he will try to make parents participate in the debate through some simple question. It will be an open and free dialogue trying to come to some conclusions at the end and strategies to put them into practice.

F. Evaluation

We will asses the results through a simple questionnaire at the end where parents and teachers could express their level of satisfaction..

5. Challenges and future of this project.

The most important challenge of this project will be to be able to get parents involved in it. We think that we will need the real participation of the Parents Association and the School Board members.

We wish that this idea motivates other groups of parents and teachers to do similar experiences, based on the equalitarian dialogue and participation among them..

José Antonio Ruiz Delgado