

Newcomers literacy in the language of the host country

ACEFIR

I. Organisation that develops the product

Name of the organisation	ACEFIR
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Short description

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II. Presentation of the product

Field :	Oral, reading and writing skills and the introduction of the ICTs.
Theme(s) addressed	Literacy.
Target audience	
Pursued objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To teach how to read and write while learning the language of the country.
Method(s) used	Self-determination of learners, intercultural approach, functional approach, communicative approach, reflexive thinking, problem solving

III. Description

Practical modalities

3 books, 3 CDs + 2 boxes with 111 images

Description of the main stage

This method started at the base when a group of literacy teachers became aware that all the newcomers were dependent because any piece of information: at the market, at the doctor's, the information from their children's school... was in Catalan and they couldn't understand anything. There were two clear reasons that made us decide to teach them how to read and write in Catalan so that they could become autonomous people, as the rest of the people in the country.

1. Because the children in the school were learning Catalan and we were teaching to read and write the parents in Spanish, we were creating a barrier between parents and their children.
2. If our young students wanted to continue studying, they would be doing it in Catalan, so we had to help them to take the opportunity to continue their studies.
3. It was easier for the newcomers that were looking for a job, to get one if they knew Catalan. Women had a good opportunity to find a job taking care of elderly people. Elderly people speak only Catalan.
4. To gain prestige. We observed newcomers were more easily accepted in society if they could speak Catalan, they were even admired and people appreciate the effort they make.

We follow the same method as a baby since he or she is born: 1st listen 2nd talk 3rd read 4th write. That's why we start literacy orally, and then we learn how to read and write.

The method consists of three books: A 1st book with easy words with direct syllables (consonant+vowel). A 2nd book with words of mixed syllables (consonant+vowel+consonant) and where easy but useful and with meaning sentences are introduced. The third book contains short readings divided in two groups: the market and the environment. The first two books come with a box containing 111 photographs of the words in the book.

At the end of the book the literate students visit the museum where the pictures that illustrate the third book are exhibited. It is usually the first time that students visit a museum.

Each book has a CD that helps students get started using computers and the internet.

Acefir organizes periodically a teachers' training course for teachers who want to learn how to use this method

Remarks

This method has the support of the Associació Amics de la UNESCO in Girona and we presented it at the Frankfurt International Book Fair and at the LitCam Conference.

IV. Dissemination

We have already presented the book in:

- Catalonia (Girona, Barcelona, Tarragona, Lleida),
- Catalonia Nord (Perpinyà),
- Balears
- Valencia
- Frankfurt International Book Fair 2007
- Frankfurt Library for the participants of the European Association « Easy-to-Read »

Contact

Directly to ACEFIR (see info on the first page)

Format

Book



Lifelong Learning Programme



Education and Culture DG

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