

Didactic kit of 4 DVDs with practical advice for educators and parents – Literacy Through Play

SIAE

I. General information

Field :	Awareness raising and concrete examples how to do it targeted to parents who are interested to assist their preschool children in early literacy steps but do not know how
Theme(s) addressed	Emergent literacy or early literacy development within the family
Target audience	Parents, grandparents, educators, carers, teachers and other people who in the preschool period take care for the development of children's attitudes towards words, books.
Pursued objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To encourage parents and others who in the preschool period take care for the development of children's attitudes towards words and books.2. To raise awareness of importance families have in the formation of a range of concepts and ideas, numerical and quantitative relations and other preliteracy skills, as well as to consolidate the first steps to literacy – from birth to the age of eight.3. Practical suggestions and useful information for educators organising meetings and workshops with parents and carers around early literacy development.
Method(s) used	The didactic kit has been first designed as the TV series, after the excellent ratings it was decided to upgrade the series into the set of 4 DVDs to be used in promotion and awareness raising of importance of family support in child emerging literacy. One of the DVDs has subtitles in English.

II. Description

Practical modalities

The 4 DVDs and in addition the DVD with English subtitles are designed as a didactic kit, each of one contains:

1. DVD

- with the entire TV programme (35 min)
- educational part (10 min)
- (the subtitled DVD contains the address by the UNECEf ambassador from Slovenia (2 min))

2. THE PRESENTATIONAL BOOKLET

- with a brief account on the DVD topic (story-telling, prewriting skills, etc)
- guests and celebrities talking about their first experiences with books and reading
- practical instructions from the programme
- invitation to parents and educators

Design of the Literacy through Play series of educational programmes involved a whole series of literacy experts and researchers and practitioners from the field. Studio guests briefly interviewed included very well known Slovenian journalists and educator, professional writer and storyteller, experienced teacher of adults and manager of a private educational institution. The programme also hosted Slovenian celebrities, who talked about their first steps to literacy. Guests included musician, actor, sportsman and actress and UNICEF ambassador.

The set of DVDs were printed in about 1300 copies, and were delivered free of charge to adult education institutions, libraries, professionals, parents and individuals. The production and printing was enabled by ESF and Ministry of education and sport in 2006 and 2007.

Description of the main stage

The pack comprises four DVDs with accompanying booklets, the titles and the contents of the individual DVDs are as follows:

- **How can we as a family help our children's literacy?:** a teaching pack for educators and parents of the youngest children up to two years old. The first programme talks about children's and parents' first encounters with picture books and books. It covers the first period, which is suitable for gently introducing toddlers to the world of letters, words and sentences.
- **Tell me a story:** a teaching pack for educators and parents of children from two to four years old. The programme focuses on developing speaking skills in pre-school children.
- **Our little one is counting:** a teaching pack for educators and parents of preschool children from four years old. The third programme emphasises the early development of numeracy.
- **My first letters:** a teaching pack for educators and parents of children in the first year of primary school. The final programme rounds off the theme of literacy development in the family by paying particular attention to the children's first attempt of writing letters. The DVD has subtitles in English.

Remarks

At the start of the project it was intended to reach the most vulnerable parents in terms of education, but it became clear that the mediator (teacher) is needed to introduce and to use DVD as a kit supporting the educational meetings and programmes (family literacy programmes) with parents. What we realised is that

video and TV has got a great potential in promotion of learning, because the members of vulnerable groups are visual and audio learners, they seldom learn from written texts and books. But to reach the most marginalised parents through the video, we will have to get more insights on the ways they learn in daily life. SIAE has got now new opportunity to develop new ICT tools within the new ESF financial scheme 2001-2014.

What needs to be mentioned is also that the production of DVD was a very low budget project, all of the guests were participating free in the programme. The TV studio charged very low fee for the production because it considered it a promotion project for the studio. SIAE covered staff costs for the author of the series and the costs of printing the DVDs and the booklets.

III. Self-determination evidence

In addition the evaluation questionnaire was added to the pack which showed that the didactic kit was very well accepted by educators and teachers in nursery institutions and kindergartens when preparing meetings with parents, in family literacy programme, but also in libraries promoting family reading. The comments were positive in regards that the DVDs contain the experts view and the practitioners view, as well as concrete examples. The 10 min educational part is about right lengths to show for example on meetings with parents. All of the comments that were returned were positive and encouraging.

Quite a few parents replied that they are now more aware of their role of parents in developing reading and writing skills of their kids, not everything is dependent on teachers in school. They felt encouraged to tell stories for their kids, even though they are not excellent story tellers.

IV. Dissemination

The complementary information of this product can be obtained at Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (see contacts above). The whole pack is available on line through SIAE website.

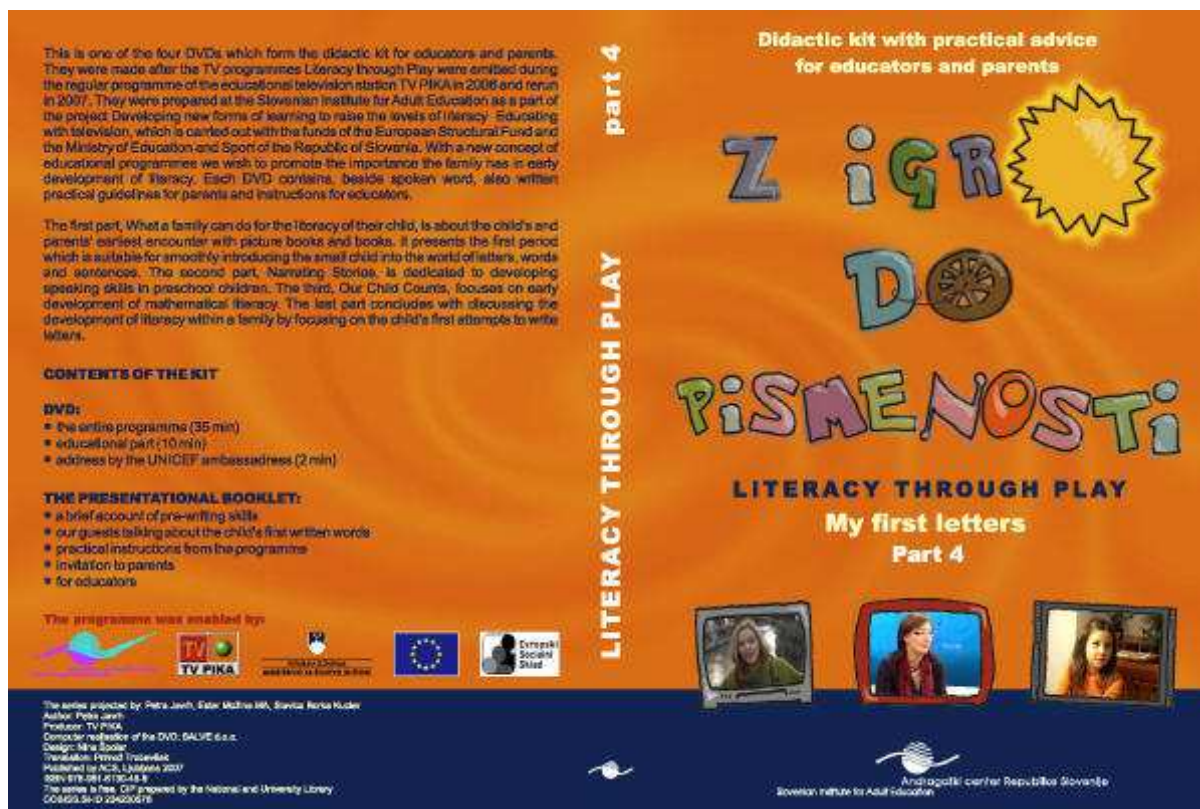
The pack contains some hints how to organise the training about the pack or in regard to separate topics, which is supported by 10 min educational part added into the DVD as excerpts and points for the discussions in the booklets.

Format

The whole series are available via internet and on DVDs. The presentation booklets are available with DVDs or via internet.

The internet site where the whole didactic kit Literacy through play is available:
Slovenian Institute for Adult Education: <http://pismenost.acs.si/dvd/>

See below the front page of the 4th DVD with subtitles in English:



V. Contact

Name of the organisation

Slovenian Institute for Adult Education

Status

Public institute

Details

Address

Smartinska 134a, 1000 Ljubljana

Country

SLOVENIJA

Tel/Fax

+386 1 842 560

Web site

<http://www.acs.si/>

Short description

SIAE is the main national adult education institution, and has been active in research, development, education, guidance and promotion in Slovenia since 1991. Basic mission is to ensure access to and a high quality of education and learning for all inhabitants of Slovenia, in accordance with the principles of free choice and equal rights.

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