Philosophy with children – example of Petit Philosophy project for preschool children

Digital media in preschool and kindergarten
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Bruno Ćurko (PhD)
Association “Petit Philosophy”
»In fact, people have been thinking about 'critical thinking' and have been researching how to teach it for about a hundred years. In a way, Socrates began this approach to learning over 2,000 years ago, but John Dewey, the American philosopher, psychologist and educator, is widely regarded as the 'father' of the modern critical thinking tradition.«

Fisher, Alec

Critical Thinking An Introduction
Reflective thinking = Critical thinking

»Active, persistent, and careful consideration of any belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of the grounds that support it, and the further conclusions to which it tends, constitutes reflective thought. «.

(Dewey, p.6)
»No one doubts, theoretically, the importance of fostering in school good habits of thinking. But a part from the fact that the acknowledgment is not so great in practice as in theory, there is not adequate theoretical recognition that all which the school can or need do for pupils, so far as their minds are concerned (that is, leaving out certain specialized muscular abilities), is to develop their ability to think. «

(p. 226)
John Dewey - reflective thinking

- **Edward Glaser** - develop Dewey's ideas:
  
  "Critical thinking is
  1) an attitude of being disposed to consider in a way thoughtful the problem and subjects that come within the range of one's experience"
  
  2) Knowledge of the methods of logical inquiry and reasoning
  
  3) Some skill in applying methods

  (Glaser, 1941, p. 5)

- **Robert Ennis**: "Critical thinking is reasonable, reflective thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe or do"  

  (Norris and Ennis, 1989).

- **Richard Paul** - "Critical thinking is that mode of thinking - about any subject, content or problem - in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skilfully taking charge of the structures inherent in thinking and imposing intellectual standards upon them."

  (Paul, Fischer and Nosich, 1993, p. 4.)

- **Matthew Lipman**, founder of the Philosophy for Children (p4c) movement, along with Ann Sharp made the first curriculum of the philosophy for children that is basically based on Dewey's teaching of the reflective thought. He developed his theory in which the also developed a theory about creative thinking and care thinking."
Learning through game

“I like to play!”

✓ the importance of play in development
✓ Johan Huizinga Homo ludens – a study of the play-element in culture.
✓ » It seems to me that next to Homo Faber, and perhaps on the same level as Homo Sapiens, Homo Ludens, Man the Player, deserves a place in our nomenclature.«
✓ Riddle-game
✓ Battle with questions– Eddas
✓ Sacred Vedic riddles. (Which is more-the living or the dead? Which is greater-the land or the sea? Which came first-day or night?)
✓ Greeks – aporia as a parlour-games
Learning through game

The notion of play in developing critical thinking and philosophy with children

- Critical thinking develops children’s critical thinking skill and forms a basis for development of many other skills and competencies. Critical thinking is thinking, which is based on the use of reason, i.e. it is guided in an appropriate manner by (good) reasons as opposed to e.g. uninformed desires and inclinations, prejudices, fears, awards and fear of punishment etc.

- Critical thinking is not limited only to logical conclusions, but is related also to in depth understanding, good decision-making, evaluating, analysing, weighing of assumptions and other considerations, etc. As an approach in education it should not be coupled with a negative connotation in the sense of being a form of unjustified criticizing.

- Philosophy for children and philosophy with children: the way to approach – with our thinking – to various topics, questions and challenges;
The notion of play in developing critical thinking!

- Through play, child learn. Through play the child gets used to the rules and behaviour in society. Through the game child develops their motor and intellectual skills.
- Playing as way to developing critical thinking skills
- Ethical development in the community of inquiry
- » Open educational materials – child need to think about it, discuss and think more.
- Questions about moral issues.
Programs and project for preschool children

- LearnIng Together To Live togEther: Teachers leading Ethical Education for an Inclusive society
- Common Values-The Signs with Human Dimension
- Sea and sea side – the place to thinking about the nature
- Summer school of philosophy
- ETHOS
- ETHIKA
Aims is to develop:

- CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS
- CREATIVE THINKING
- DEMOCRATIC VALUES
ETHOS: Ethical education primary and pre-primary schools for a sustainable and dialogic future

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Partners in this project are:

- Teološka fakulteta Ljubljana (Teof): Slovenia
- Osnovna šola Šmartno v Tuhinju (OŠŠ): Slovenia
- Amitié (Amitie), Italy
- Friedrich – Alexsander- Universität Erlangen- Nürenberg (FAU ILI), Germany
- Inova 4T Tuzla (Inova 4T), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Petit philosophy (»Mala filozofija«), Croatia
- Kirchliche Pädagogische Hochschule Graz, Austria
- Scienter (Scientoer), Spain

Educational materials and tools and other very useful things about ethical
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<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>3-5 years</th>
<th>5-7 years</th>
<th>7-9 years</th>
<th>9-11 years</th>
<th>11-15 years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Respect</td>
<td>Mom, daddy, teacher</td>
<td>Owl</td>
<td>Story of Fluffy, the Dog who is searching for Happiness</td>
<td>Finishing the stories</td>
<td>On line discussions</td>
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<td>2. Tolerance</td>
<td>Game of sharing</td>
<td>Common drawing</td>
<td>Blue sea horse</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>“Defining the Tolerance”</td>
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<td>3. Responsibility</td>
<td>Game of compromise</td>
<td>Hippo and the bee</td>
<td>Teddy’s pear</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>A Fully Unexpected Event in Almond Street No. 31</td>
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<td>4. Moral Values</td>
<td>To be good</td>
<td>Educational game „Good angel and bed imp“</td>
<td>Thinking story “The little ones and the big ones”</td>
<td>Values</td>
<td>Valeria and a pearl</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Relationships/Friendship</td>
<td>Choose your friend</td>
<td>Creature form Jupiter</td>
<td>My best friend</td>
<td>Friendship</td>
<td>Defining the Friendship</td>
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</tbody>
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(R)- evolution - Sea and Coastal Area – Places to Reflect on Your Relation to Nature

- Topics:
  Evolution, Ugly Animals, Man and environment, Importance of the sea & Marine animals.

- Different programs for different age group:
  - 4-7
  - 8-11
  - 12-14
  - 15-18