

Czech Republic Good Practices: Mentoring support programs for families and children

Main Goals

- To support children who, for a variety of reasons - personality, social, family, tend to have a risk-oriented attitude or cope with the first consequences of such behavior

Objectives

- To establish contact and offer help to children in difficult situations
- To capture the onset of problems and provide non-violent form of specific help in problematic areas of the child's life

Resources needed

- Subsidies, finance
- Expert team – external and internal
- Coordinator who is in contact with all stakeholders – families, volunteers, professional support

Challenges

- Qualified collaboration with specialized workplaces
- Qualified and quality training and mentoring support for volunteers involved
- Building trust of families and children involved

Our region shows in the long term that there is a great interest in programs where the family can solve a demanding educational and social situation by field and outpatient ways, where a preventive intervention, remedy or rehabilitation is carried out in a natural environment of a family and the family thus gains deeper insight into the possibilities of how to actively solve the problem by self-help or with a possible support of the necessary institutions.

In solving problems of the children and the families, we actively cooperate with institutions dealing with family rehabilitation, diagnosis of problems and seeking its remedy. When implementing the project, we respond to the needs of the above mentioned institutions, we consult with them the development on a case-by-case basis, we are able to respond to a specific order concerning the individual needs of the child and the needs of the institution that recommends the child to the program. We are active participants in case conferences and meetings and we directly engage at the moment when it is clear that the child needs individual support or support in a small training group with the leadership of volunteers - guides.

TOTEM, z.s. has developed a verified methodology for preparing a volunteer and further work with him so that he is a competent guide for the family and the child. Based on the methodology of Pět P and KOMPAS © programs and applied from leisure time issues to the level of specific support and prevention for children at risk of exclusion or risk behavior.

We have been implementing the project since 2001 and we support about 30 families and children every year. It consists of 4 mentoring programs:

Pět P (Five P) - Individual mentoring support for children aged 6-15 years

KAMPa 15+ - Individual mentoring support for youth aged 15-26

TUTORING - Individual or group support to boost school achievements

KOMPAS® - a small group designed for social skills training for children aged 6 – 15

To promote the project, we use local newspapers, facebook, web site and expert meetings and conferences.



TOTEM implements The Five P project since 2001

"I can tell that Karolína is a lady with her heart in the right place. For our handicapped son, she is a reliable and great friend he is enjoying a lot of fun with. He realized again that his life might not be limited to his parents, and that he could spend a good time with a person outside of the family, with his male or female friend. We are very happy that there are people like Karolína, who offer a helping hand in their spare time and selflessly bring joy to others."

The father of the family



Facts and points

- ✓ Mentoring support is provided on average for one year
- ✓ Since 2001, more than 230 supported children
- ✓ A program recognized by the general and professional public
- ✓ Volunteers Adam Štrunc in 2011 and Jáchym Wiesner in 2016 received the highest award for volunteer work called Křesadlo
- ✓ TOTEM, z.s. passed successfully in years 2016 and 2018 qualitative audits of the Czech Association of Mentoring Programs – Quality of work in Mentoring programs