Teachers, educators & parents, Let's keep in touch !

- A project that rethinks the use of digital tools in ECEC -

July 2022

The COVID crises highlighted not only our need to approach the digital in a critical and creative way, but also to use the opportunities given by digital tools to maintain emotional bounding and social nearness. Keep In Touch answers to these needs by promoting innovative approaches, methods and tools to build digital education readiness in Early Childhood Education.

1/ The project's outputs

2/ Digital ateliers in school

The project's outputs

The Keep in Touch project bring together five partners across Europe, teachers and educators, parents and children. The project is divided into three main outputs :

E-learning modules for teachers

National trainings to make a state of the art and to give teachers digital skills have been performed from October to March. More than 200 teachers and educators have been trained. The trainings are the basis for the Keep In Touch E-learning modules which will be available online from Autumn this year.

Digital ateliers for children

Co-creation phase that ran from December to July. Assisted by the partners, the teachers and educators created Digital Ateliers to be played in school and at home. The digital ateliers give the children digital skills and help them improve their media literacy while having fun in school and with their families. They are based upon free and accessible apps and promote a creative use of digital tools. They were tested in school groups in the different countries of the project with more than 1500 children. They will be reworked according to the teachers and parents feedback, translated in different languages and combined into a toolkit easily downloadable on the website.

Digital guidelines for parents

We are creating digital guidelines for parents, carers and educators. We meet with parents to understand their needs and concerns about their kids relationship with the digital tools. From these meetings, we will create a short brochure with advices, creative ideas and good practices to be disseminated across Europe.

Germany : Toddlers & Emotions

The objective of the project is to understand the emotions of children. The workshop includes 3 digital tools: a digital camera, a tablet and a polaroid. The children started by taking pictures of each other. They discover how they look like when they are angry, happy, or surprised. Then, they took pictures of things or situation that make them feel emotional: a place, a toy, a favorite animal, etc. The activity at home was to take pictures showing the connection with the parents. The last step was to display the children's pictures on a wall. The children picked five pictures to tell a story. The feedback was very positive. It allowed the children to explore their emotions and learn how to use photographic tools. The adults were also able to better understand certain emotions or possible traumas that might their toddlers might suffer.

France : Speaking Portraits

Have you ever made your favourite book character speak ? Well you can do so using very accessible and free apps. Children from two schools in Marseille experimented with this technologies. They created their own story using characters of wordless books and even made their own drawing speaks ! After the atelier, the movies were displayed within painting frames and parents were invited to download the apps and make their old family pictures speaks. Many families recently arrived in France and a lot of kids have never met their grand-parents. This atelier created moments of exchange between the parents and their kids about their relatives.

Belgium : Media Literacy

Each teacher developed their own workshop. Children learnt about the history of digital mediums and the messages within the images. They discovered different animations or photography techniques such as off-camera, point of view, zoom, different shots, etc. The parents enjoyed participating in the workshops and took pleasure in learning with their children. This encouraged the teachers to use digital tools in the future, and to repeat the experience with similar projects.

3

Portugal : From school to family, a window to the future

The school is located in an area where few parents are literate, without digital tools. The objective of the workshop was to improve communication between educators and parents at home, especially in the context of the pandemic, where children did not come to school. The school distributed smartphones or tablets to families and then taught parents and children how to use them. They then set up a device with videos and sounds to communicate with parents who could not read. Introducing digital technology to poorer areas is important for children to thrive in this connected world. Both the children and the parents were very happy with this experience. It allowed them to experiment with tools previously inaccessible, while having fun.

Italy : Little Stick big Adventures !

The mission of this workshop was to learn by creating and manipulating, to develop the children's emotions and group work skills. After reading the book « Little Stick », each child had to find it's own twig in the woods and they take a picture of it. Then they customized their stick and brought it home. Children and parents were asked to bring Mr stick on a journey and take pictures (on a walk, at the restaurant, in the supermarket...). The children thought about what they didn't liked about the world (smoke, dirt...) and took pictures with Mr stick to expose these issues. The project will carry on with the making of a stop-motion animation of Mr Stick. The children loved interacting with their environment through digital tools and working on a project in school and with the parents. This workshop also made the children aware of pollution and the importance of nature.