



Partnership for Children
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MISSION

To help children and young people, throughout the world, develop skills which will enhance their present and future emotional wellbeing.

Lithuanian teenagers say Zippy helped them

An important new study in Lithuania has shown that children remember lessons learned in Zippy's Friends for many years, and that the programme helps them to cope with difficulties in their lives.

The study was conducted by Vida Gudauskienė of the National Center for Special Needs Education and



Psychology in Vilnius, who was responsible for gathering data during the first evaluation of Zippy's Friends in Lithuania in 2000-

2003. Last October she set out to trace teenagers who, nine years earlier, had taken part in that first pilot.

The search itself was a considerable challenge because the children had moved on from kindergarten to primary and then secondary schools. Vida also worried that, as teenagers, they might not want to talk about their early childhood. However, she managed to find 104 of them, and 73 completed questionnaires.

The results were clear and positive – 81% of the children remembered Zippy's Friends, 68% said that it had helped them to overcome difficulties in everyday life, and 79% thought that such programmes were important for young children.



Among the teenagers' comments were:

- *Zippy's programme developed my self-confidence and trust in others. Zippy was a very good friend in our group.*
- *I have learned to communicate with others, not to fight and not to scuffle, to solve problems peacefully.*
- *Zippy's programme encouraged me to communicate, not to be afraid to ask, to inquire. When I moved to a school, I communicated with teachers more freely than others. I was not afraid (and am not afraid) to ask if something is unclear to me.*

Specifically, the teenagers said that the programme helped them to become more self confident and to communicate freely with their friends, and improved their self-control. Several even said that they still had their Zippy pencils and diplomas and that these things were important for them.

The research findings were revealed at the end of the tenth anniversary year of Zippy in Lithuania.

'The results just raised us up on wings!' said Aurelija Okunauskienė, Director of Vaiko Labui, the agency that runs the programme. 'Teachers said that they felt proud, for the programme itself and for their role in it.'

Partnership for Children's Programme Director Caroline Egar said: 'Long term studies like this are notoriously difficult to do because it's so hard to track children as they move on to different schools. Vida organised everything herself, without any support or funding, and, even though the number of children in the study is quite small, the results show that the impact of Zippy's Friends can be long lasting.'

You can read the full report here.

What Educators Think

Schools in Southwark, South London, are using Zippy's Friends to help children with particular emotional



or behavioural problems. The educators who work with these children say that the programme is really helping them. You can listen to their comments here.

Bright Star

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Howard Mak, 22-year-old son of our Trustee, Sandra Mak. Howard was an exceptionally bright young man who had recently moved to the UK to work. He was enthusiastic about the work of Partnership for Children, and had been planning to help us as a volunteer. We are honoured to have received almost £30,000 in donations given in Howard's memory and are discussing with his family how the money should be used.



Good Books

Funding has been secured for a second edition of Good Books for Tough Times, focusing this time on books that can help children aged from 9 to 12. The first edition is available in print and online, and all the recommended books can be ordered via our website.

Zippy in Mauritius

Schools in Mauritius are just starting their second year of Les Amis de Zippy. The first year went so well that the number of schools running the programme has tripled.



Past Trustees

Paul Rubenstein and Jeppe Kristen Toft, two of our founding Trustees, have written about their roles in helping Partnership for Children to grow.

Jeppe, a former teacher, said: 'Having visited many schools in countries throughout the world, I have seen what I suspected before the journey. Children are raised under very different economic and emotional

conditions, but they all need the same basic skills to cope with the challenges and difficulties of growing up.'

For Paul, working as an unpaid Trustee was a rewarding change from his professional life.

'My paid work is in a commercial field where there is rarely time to consider the individual. Being involved with Partnership for Children, despite all the difficulties in trying to secure its future, was a haven of peace and purity!'

You can read their full articles here.



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