




FOSTER CARE IN SLOVENIA

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- **Foster care in Slovenia**
 - Legal definition of foster care
 - Short history of foster care in Slovenia
 - Role of Centre for Social Work (CSW)
 - About foster children
 - About foster families
 - **Project presentation**
 - **Possible role for social pedagogue**

FOSTER CARE IN SLOVENIA

Legal definition

- Special children care
- Government responsibility to find a new family
- Positive family experience

History

- From 18th century: private practice inside extended families
- 1926: first children were placed into foster families
- 50's: responsibility for foster children was given to the government
- “Black foster care” period
- 1976: first law about foster care – still valid!

Role of Centre for Social Work (CSW)

- Receiving a notification about problems in a family from police, school, medical centre, neighbours or closed relatives
- CSW can place children in foster care with or without parents confirmation
- Selection of appropriate candidates for foster parents
- Managing individual project teams
- Controlling function

About foster children

- June 2012: 1083 children in 648 foster families
- Doubt: to place the children in care institutions or in foster families
- Main reasons for leaving a biological family: alcohol, bad material conditions, educational inability

About foster families

- Professional foster parent?
- A maximum of 3 children
- Only few social events for families
- Negative connotation about foster care in Slovenian media



PROJECT PRESENTATION

Holiday for Children in Foster Care

Project Aim

- For organizers:
 - to learn about population of foster families
 - to get experiences in project planning and realisation
 - to work in a team
- For children:
 - socializing
 - exchange of experience
 - talking about teenage issues

Project goals

- To create a safe and trusting atmosphere
- To empower children
- To prepare different kind of activities
 - Evening entertainment
 - Great night game
 - Indoor and outdoor activities
 - Organised free time
- To consider child's wishes

Preparations

November

visit of Centre of Social Work



December

invitation and application form



February

Holiday

Organization



The main theme



Workshops

- Drugs and addiction
- Emotions
- Identity
- Media
- “My life story”



Free time



Feedback

»I realised that it is good to be in a foster family.«

»I learned I am not the only one in a foster family.«

»Holiday could be longer.«

»I realised we had similar past and experience.«

Conclusion

- Holidays are suitable type of work with that kind of population.
- Children are prepared to share their experience.
- Students of social pedagogic are capable of preparing this kind of projects, but they have to be aware of responsibilities.

ROLE OF SOCIAL PEDAGOGUE

- Connecting role
- Working with biological parents
- Foster family ↔ biological family
- Supervisor
- Project worker
- Professional foster parent



Thank you for your attention!