

Inspiring stories about language learning

Eskar kids – the school magazine

Context:

- The activity takes place in a fifth class of the German section of the European School (ES) in Karlsruhe (www.es-karlsruhe.eu/). The ES are multicultural and multilingual institutions for children from all EU countries. The language of the section is German, but there are also bilingual/plurilingual children and children with different home languages. The Czech children have some lessons of the Czech language every week.

Reasons for choosing this activity:

- Children like writing short articles for the monthly school magazine. They decide to write both in Czech and in German in order to be able to read and compare the texts in both languages (→ relying on existing linguistic repertoires). They develop vocabulary and narrative skills in both languages. Moreover, they want to provide their friends from the German section with information about the Czech Republic and to show what the Czech language looks like when written (→ active language learning).



Description:

- In their articles, the Czech children share with their German classmates what they have learned during the Czech lessons. This includes the most important historical events and places in the Czech Republic; Czech traditions and cultural events; recipes for Czech meals; etc. (→ meaningful language learning)

Observation:

- The Czech children present their country and their mother tongue(s); a girl sings a popular Czech song; the Czech pupils share some typical Czech cakes with all their classmates who come from different countries (→ holistic language learning). In the example that follows, a Czech pupil from the 5th year level in both the Czech and German languages describes the celebration of the European Day of Languages.

This is an output of the project “Inspiring language learning in the early years – Why it matters and what it looks like for children age 3-12” (2016-2019) of the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML). The ECML is a Council of Europe institution promoting excellence in language education in its member states. www.ecml.at/inspiringearlylearning



Říjen 2017

Měsíc říjen byl plný oslav. Se všemi SWALS – dětmi jsme oslavili „Evropský den jazyků“. Žáci z různých zemí představili svou zemi a mateřský jazyk. Vivien na závěr zazpívala ještě moderní českou písničku. Naše prezentace se nám povedla. Z domova jsem s Tomáškem přinesl dokonce i české domácí koláčky, které upekla naše maminka. Následující den jsme naše představení zopakovali v 5Da. Všem se moc líbilo.

Petr, 5Da, 25.10.2017

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Oktober 2017

Der Monat Oktober wurde durch viele Feste geprägt. Mit allen SWALS – Kindern haben wir den „Europäischen Tag der Sprachen“ gefeiert. Schüler aus verschiedenen Ländern stellten ihr Land und ihre Muttersprache vor. Vivien hat am Ende noch ein modernes tschechisches Lied vorgesungen. Unsere Präsentation war sehr erfolgreich. Tomáš und ich haben noch böhmische hausgemachte Kolatschen (Plunderteilchen) mitgebracht, die unserer Mama gebacken hat. Am nächsten Tag haben wir unsere Vorführung in der 5Da wiederholt. Auch dort hat es allen gefallen.

Petr, 5Da, 25.10.2017

