

Book review

Promovarea pedagogiei experiențiale prin intermediul activităților de tip outdoor în învățământul preșcolar [Promoting Experiential Pedagogy through Outdoor Activities in Preschool Education] by Adela-Simina Câmpan



The work "Promoting Experiential Pedagogy through Outdoor Activities in Preschool Education" is a doctoral thesis in the field of Educational Sciences, written by Adela-Simina Câmpan, under the supervision of Professor Mușata Bocoș, PhD. The work is included in the "Paedagogia" collection, coordinated by Professor Mușata Bocoș, PhD. The book, with ISBN 978-606-37-1058-2, contains 455 pages.

The thesis consists of nine chapters, a bibliography, and appendices. In the first part of the first chapter, "Experiential Pedagogy in an Axiological Approach," the particularities of experiential pedagogy are described, and an overview of it is presented in the context of both Romanian and European education. In the second part of the chapter, the concept of experiential learning is defined,

highlighting the essential characteristics of this type of learning through a multidimensional analysis. From a processual perspective, the stages of experiential learning are detailed. This chapter also introduces key figures in the field of experiential learning: William James, John Dewey, Mary Parker Follett, Carl Jung, Kurt Hahn, Kurt Lewin, Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, Carl Rogers, Paulo Freire, and David Kolb. The author concludes the chapter by outlining the profile of a teacher who promotes experiential learning and provides examples of best practices.

In the first part of the second chapter, "Outdoor Education or Quality Beyond the Classroom," the author defines the concept of outdoor education, presents several theories underlying the concept, and describes the profile of a teacher specialized in outdoor education. A significant part of this chapter focuses on the planning and execution of outdoor activities. The author pays attention to characterizing outdoor activities, the specific features of participants, and creating an appropriate learning environment using teaching

methods that target the cognitive, physical, and emotional development of children. In the second part of the chapter, a series of constraints, limitations, and risks associated with outdoor activities are highlighted. The author refers to continuous training programs related to outdoor education for teachers in Romania and describes the status of outdoor education worldwide, focusing on research conducted on this subject.

In the third chapter, "Outdoor Activities in the Context of the Romanian Preschool Curriculum," the author critically analyzes the role of these activities, considering their importance in the current education of children and future citizens.

In the fourth chapter, "General Coordinates of the Research," the research issues, design, purpose, objectives, questions, hypotheses, and variables are presented, along with the participants, methods, and instruments used in the research.

The next three chapters describe the three stages of the experimental research: the pre-experimental stage, the experimental stage, and the post-experimental stage.

The eighth chapter presents "The Analysis of Results in Relation to the Research Hypotheses." The results were obtained using the "Teacher-Child Evaluation Scale," the "Preschooler Behavior Observation Grid," the sociometric test, and the sociometric matrix. The chapter concludes with several case studies.

The final chapter contains a series of "Conclusions," emphasizing the author's theoretical, practical, and applicative contributions. The work ends with an outline of the research's limitations and some recommendations for educational practice.

The work stands out in the editorial landscape for its originality, the rigorous presentation of theoretical and practical aspects, and the in-depth exploration of the topics addressed. The psychopedagogical research adhered to the standards of the educational sciences field, and the organization of the study provides valuable benchmarks for other researchers.

Bibliographic reference of the reviewed book

Câmpan, A.-S. (2021). *Promovarea pedagogiei experiențiale prin intermediul activităților de tip outdoor în învățământul preșcolar* [Promoting Experiential Pedagogy through Outdoor Activities in Preschool Education]. Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană.

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