Dear colleagues,

For a couple of years we have been facing challenges to apply a new integrated approach to everyday life and learning of children in preschool institutions. I believe that many of you are already involved in this system, while some of you will be a part of it sooner or later. It means that both preschool teachers and parents must change attitudes and approach towards children and understand that the time has come to accept LEARNING THROUGH PLAY as new method or way of life.

Last time we talked about play, trying to define it. Now we have to emphasize that all we said should be taken not only as a language practice but also a part of a new way of teaching children.

Since many of these novelties come from the west – the UK, the USA etc., I enclose one document / book which may enrich both your English language terms referring to play (equipment, resources, materials, instructions, phases, principles of assessing) and skills in teaching children (learning\_through\_play\_ey.pdf ; if you want it, I will send you at your request). Please, read it and think about the possible application of the given ideas and material in our nursery schools. Are there any materials and activities which seem unacceptable here in the country today? Which ones do you personally prefer? Why? Do British/American preschool teachers have more freedom of choice? Are we going to have it here?

Think about possible answers to these issues without need to send them back to me. One of the important things could be the following task: Try to make for yourself a list of phrases/nouns/verbs/adjectives typical of this pedagogical field and write it down. It might be helpful in real time as a source of ideas for real life situation in your play group.

This can be both entertaining and useful task. Do it with open heart and I hope that you’ll enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Jelena Spasić

Novi Sad, 09.03.2023.