

REPORT
on
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF GAMES
Children's Festival devoted to the Children's Protection Day
31 May 2007, Yerevan

1. Preparation Phase

Our organization DAA has a traditional experience of organizing festivals for and with our hospital school children connected with the important dates. So the DAA hospital school teachers decided to organize an interesting event devoted to the children's Protection Day, which is celebrated in many countries on the 1st of June. This was decided at the DAA general meeting on the 5th of April. A number of preparation meetings were fixed to prepare this event.

The first meeting took place on the 9th of April in the DAA hospital school library with the participation of Lena Tadevosyan, Ani Hovhannisyanyan, Ruzanna Iskandaryan, Karina Tadevosyan and Kristine Andreasyan. The outcome of the meeting was: the festival will be called "Welcome to the World of Games", the date-31st of May 2007, hours- 11.00 to 14.00 in the front yard of the DAA hospital school. There are many children's events happening on the 1st of June, so we shifted our festival to the 31st of May, giving our school children possibility to join the other happenings, at the same time having more participants from the neighborhood at our festival. The programme of the festival mainly included games, painting on the asphalt, exhibition-sale of the handicraft atelier and cookies, cakes and khachapuries baked by our school children and some mothers at our baking course. We also planned to ask some of Yerevan ice-cream making firms to supply our festival with 100 free of charge pieces of ice-cream for the festival participants. At this meeting the teachers got a task to carefully choose the educational games to be included into the festival.

The next meeting took place on the 23rd of April. The meeting topic was Educational Games, selection for the festival. Lena Tadevosyan presented table games: Uno, Tuto, Memory, Dingo, Qubs, Labyrinth, Micado (table and ground). Ani Hovhannisyanyan presented a game "Be quick and quick-minded", which is an active team game. Ani and Lena created this game together. The aim of the game is to broaden up children's knowledge in different aspects. Kristine Andreasyan presented a game "The Crocodile and Frogs". It is an active game, helping to develop the balance and to be self-supportive. And finally it's a fun. The teachers also decided to include our Parachute, which will help us to stage the game-tale "The mice and the cat", and the game "Which side will hold the ball longer". So among the chosen games the Festival programme included:

1. table games
2. movable games
3. team games

On the 3rd of May at the DAA general meeting Kristine Andreasyan presented the Festival programme to the DAA members. All the meeting participants fixed the prizes for the game and competition winners and voted for the programme. Hasmik Tadevosyan mentioned that all the DAA staff should be present at the festival to help the teachers.

Next meeting took place on the 21st of May. The final distribution of the responsibilities was as following:

1. Table games: Ani responsible for Uno and Labyrinth, Anahit- Tuto, Ruzanna Memory and Micado (table), Lena-Micado (ground), Karina Dingo and Qubs.
2. Movable games: Anahit - "The Crocodile and Frogs", Lena, Ruzanna and Karina Parachute
3. Team games: "Be quick and quick-minded" jury: Ani, Lena, Ruzanna, Karina, Anahit, game leader- Kristine.
4. Painting on the asphalt responsible Ashot Avakimyan
5. atelier exhibition-sale Shushanik Atoyanyan
6. Baking-Gayane Haroutunyan

Organizational responsibilities:

1. Music Kristine
2. Decoration Ani, Lena, Ruzanna, Karina, Anahit
3. Tents, chairs, tables Haroutunyan
4. Shopping- Kristine, Lena
5. Advertisement, video and photo documentation- Haik

None of the ice-cream firms reacted on our letters and phone calls for free of charge ice-creams.

The final version of the programme was ready, hung on the walls and information boards in both hospitals on the 21st of May. The invitations were sent to: Mission East, Integration and special schools, American Peace Corps and UNIEF.

Attached: programme, budget, photos, letters to firms.

2. Actual events

The Festival itself was very interesting and multisided. There were children both from Arabkir and Haematology hospitals. Many children from neighborhood joined it. A lot of parents from Arabkir came down to the yard to join their children. Kindergarten children with their teacher Hasmik Stepanyan came out and joined asphalt painting, dancing and singing. A lot of medical staff were with us, and dialysis nurse Amalia even got a prize as a medical staff member who participated in the competition Painting on Asphalt.

"The Crocodile and Frogs" game was a special interest. Children had to run and take the right place, otherwise being frogs they became the "dinner" of the crocodile. It was a fun.

The game-competition "Be quick and quick-minded" was also very interesting, especially when there was a task to dance under the music that was put on the same minute. The variations were from Armenian folk dances to the cartoon music. Children changed their dance movements, adapting them to the music amazingly well and quickly.

All the children participated in Painting on the Asphalt. The best was 12-year-old patient from Arabkir, nephrology department Mushegh, who painted 2 swans. (photo is attached)

3. Feedback

There were very many positive feedbacks on the Festival. The parents were happy with the good organization (from the very beginning all the children were accompanied by the teachers to the festival site, nobody was left out of the DAA staff attention, all the teachers were well recognized in the crowds having their bright uniforms and batches on). The games and the children were distributed according to the age. Parents and children were very proud to see their crafts at the exhibition-sale and they gladly shared their experience with the others. Mushegh the best painter of the Festival, was so much impressed that the next morning came up to Lena, his teacher and gave her a poem that he had written at night after the Festival. The poem will be printed in the next DAA bulletin. On the next day everywhere in the both hospitals everybody was talking about the Festival.

This was the first Festival where I was the leader, that's why I was a bit nervous, especially at the beginning. Of course I helped Liana Sanamyan with the previous Festivals and had some experience, but now as a leader I had other feelings. Our DAA teachers were a very big support in any organizational problem. Like this I felt in reality what a true team-work is.

The teachers mentioned that the good preparation led to the fact that there was no mess even with such big number of children, everybody knew at what hour they do what, who is responsible for what.

We got 150 paper-cut planes from the Peace Corps representative Jilicia Overholt, which were given out to each child, who participated our Festival.

The only non-realized point in the Festival programme was the ice-cream, but it was very nicely replaced by the balloons, filled with the air. These balloons were everywhere around the Festival site. When the representative of their firm saw our Festival site and the children, he filled up in addition 20 more balloons. At the very end of the Festival as a closing ceremony, each child wrote a wish on a small card made by himself and tight it to one of the balloons. Finally all the balloons flew high into the sky and we closed the Festival.

For a long time children and parent kept on bringing thankful letters to our teachers and the DAA office.

4. Problems

In reality we didn't have a serious problem. There were minor thing which we'll keep in mind for the next event. E.g. in the game "Be quick and quick-minded" the second part was a bit long. It was the end of the Festival and the children were tired. It's an excellent game for the camp programme, but when included into the Festival we should use a shorten version of it.

Kristine Andreyan
Special Projects Leader

10 June, 2007, DAA office, Yerevan, KA