

Project/program title : BETTER AT READING, BETTER AT WRITING AND EVEN BETTER AT SPEAKING

Program of early detection and prevention of speech, writing and reading impediments in children of preschool and early school age

Introduction of speech therapy into SOS Children's Village Ladimirevci would help us to better address speech therapy problems in a familiar, emotionally secure environment for children. In addition, families living in Ladimirevci and under the jurisdiction of the Social Welfare Center Valpovo would also be able to use the speech therapy services, often unavailable to many children, because parents cannot take the children to the specialist polyclinic in Osijek or pay for private speech therapy sessions.

The importance of speech therapy for children who lived or are still living in unfavorable family environment, and who are therefore deprived in terms of normal growth and development, is an extremely important factor in correcting speech and writing problems. By preventing, detecting, testing, treating the problems and counseling, speech therapy actively helps children with communication difficulties, speech and language impediments, prepares them for the first grade, helps them if they have problems with the acquisition of reading and writing skills and or if they have specific reading and writing difficulties.

The project will benefit children from the SOS Children's Village Ladimirevci, the village of Ladimirevci, Valpovo and surrounding villages. The children will be referred by the Social Welfare Center Valpovo in cooperation with educational and pedagogical institutions in the Valpovo region. It will also benefit the families, educational and pedagogical institutions and the society as a whole.

Speech therapy:

Speech therapy is used to treat articulation disorders, phonological disorders, phonological-articulation disorders, difficulties in speech and language development, fluency disorders (stuttering, talking too fast), communication difficulties, hearing impairments, specific difficulties in reading and writing (dyslexia, dysgraphia).

In the course of speech therapy, SOS mothers and biological parents receive ongoing counseling on how to stimulate speech and language development, and how to carry out exercises and partial exercises for reading and writing.

The duration of the speech therapy depends on the complexity of disorders and personality of every child, his or her age, willingness to cooperate and on the systematic monitoring and the work done at home.

The duration and intensity of speech therapy exercises is tailored to individual needs and depends on the complexity of the disorder. Sessions take place once or twice a week, based on the assessment of the speech therapist, with each session lasting 30 to 45 minutes.

The speech therapy cabinet needs to be equipped with the following devices, tests and textbooks:

1. Speech therapy devices and aids:
 - 1.1. Digital speech therapy set Behringer (complete with headphones and microphone), Tara centar, Zagreb – HRK 18.600,00
 - 1.2. Speech correcting devices, Foma, Zagreb – HRK 1.300,00
 - 1.3. Vibraphone, Elgrad, Varaždin – HRK 3.175,00

- 1.4. Computer – HRK 6.000,00
- 1.5. Tablet – HRK 3.000,00
- 2. Diagnostic tests, scales and questionnaires
 - 2.1. Communication Development Scales – Word and Gesture Scale (Kovačević, M. et al., Croatian edition published in 2012, Naklada Slap – HRK 1.562,00
 - 2.2. Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, PPVT-III-HR (Kovačević et al., Croatian edition from 2010), Naklada Slap – HRK 2.137,00
 - 2.3. Reynell Developmental Language Scales – RLJG, Reynell, 1987, Croatian edition in 1995) – HRK 5.450,00
 - 2.4. Grammar Comprehension Test TROG –HR-2 (publication forthcoming, Kuvač Kraljević et al., Naklada Slap) – HRK 1.625,00
 - 2.5. Token Test (TTFC-2), Token Test for Children, McGhee, Ehrler, DiSimoni, 2007 – HRK 1.200,00
 - 2.6. Test for the Assessment of Preliminary Reading and Writing Skills, Kraljević Kuvač, Lenček, Naklada Slap, 2012 – HRK 875,00
 - 2.7. Diagnostic Set for the Assessment of Speech, Language, Reading and Writing Abilities in Children; Bjelica, Posokhova, 2001 – HRK 300,00
 - 2.8. Articulation Test, Vuletić, Fakultet za defektologiju, 1990 – HRK 50,00
- 3. Speech therapy textbooks and practice books (Foma, Artmedia)
 - 3.1. Practice books for sounds Š,Ž,L,R,Č,Ć – HRK 300,00
 - 3.2. From Sounds to Letters – HRK 45,00
 - 3.3. When Sounds Get Stuck – HRK 40,00
 - 3.4. Reading Before Starting School – HRK 105,00
 - 3.5. In the World of Letters – exercises – HRK 55,000
 - 3.6. Getting Ready for School – HRK 35,00
 - 3.7. Show What You Know – HRK 50,00
 - 3.8. Try Something New – HRK 25,00
 - 3.9. Little School – HRK 65,00
 - 3.10. Let's Play and Read – HRK 150,00
 - 3.11. Dyslexia – Guide to Dyslexia – HRK 120,00
 - 3.12. Big Book of Speech Development Activities and Exercises – HRK 150,00
 - 3.13. Encouraging Early Speech and Language Development – HRK 70,00
 - 3.14. Merry School of Speech Therapy – HRK 140,00
 - 3.15. 200 Speech Therapy Games – HRK 110,00
 - 3.16. Small Child and Space – HRK 120,00
 - 3.17. Speech, Rhythm, Movement – HRK 120,00
 - 3.18. Educational CD Little Reader 1,2,3 – HRK 70,00
 - 3.19. Eva in the World of Letters – interactive educational CD – HRK 95,00
 - 3.20. Picture books – HRK 500,00

Total project costs

For 2-year project duration with 40 children included in therapy:

Equipment and materials: HRK 47.700,00

Speech therapist's: HRK 125.435,54 gross annually, i.e., the cost for the employer is HRK 144.251 including health insurance per year – for two year project HRK 288.502.

Total : HRK 336.201 approx. 48.333 US \$

The project is in compliance with the **Constitution of the Republic of Croatia**, Article. 63. Right of children with developmental difficulties to special care, education and welfare.

The project is in compliance with the **Social Welfare Act (Official Gazette 157/13)**.

The project is in compliance with the **Quality Standards for Social Services in the Social Welfare Sector, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, 2010**.

The project is in compliance with the **Ministry of Social Policy and Youth Strategic Plan 2014 – 2016**.

The project is in compliance with the **Strategy for the Development of Social Welfare System in the Republic of Croatia 2011 – 2016**.

The project is in compliance with the **National Strategy of Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2007 – 2015 (Official Gazette 63/07)**.

The project is in compliance with the **National Plan of Activities for the Rights and Interests of Children 2006 – 2012**.

The project is in compliance with the **County Development Strategy 2011 – 2013 (County Herald, 1/11)**.

Rotary Club Zagreb – Dora

Zagreb, November 8th, 2015