



SMILE

Coming to school with a smile
Reducing drop out in school

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REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES

Introduction : the learning activities planned for the project SMILE during the students 'exchange meeting in Campobasso have had different aims :

1. Using different kind of strategies to let students learn new things being directly involved and protagonists of their learning process
2. Giving students some information about the problem of drop out , asking them to look for possible solutions using their creative intelligence, different means of communication and technological devices.
3. Offering the opportunity to share ideas and cultural experience with students of a different nations understanding and comparing what they have in common and the role of their European heritage.

Methodology : All the strategies used during the workshops have given the students:

- the possibility to freely express themselves
- free choice of roles inside the group. (They had to decide the group leader , the time keeper , the reporter and so on).
- The idea of sharing responsibilities
- Free choice of different communication languages (English ,Spanish or Italian)

Moreover group work and learning by doing have been also effectively used ,with clear instructions and fixed deadlines to get the best from the time they had.

Creative power of the mind ,free choice as well as cooperative learning have been stimulated in all the activities.

Teachers have been had the role of mediators, observers, helper and counselors , guiding students in their tasks.

In conclusion even the methodology and strategies used during the different workshops have been an example of good practice to avoid drop out.

Means and instruments :

1. Special room used for the activities of presentations , with a LIM and octagonal desks really useful for debating
2. ICT lab : important to learn how to draw tag clouds , how to use publisher for digital posters, PPT and video clip.
3. Use of cameras and other tools for the stop motion activity
4. Paper, scissors coloured felt pens and so on

Results : All the activities planned have been carried out.

Students have been able to produce and present to the others the following products *

- a. Different tag clouds on the words of drop out ,using different foreign languages
- b. Different posters proposing activities, procedures and suggestions to face the problem of drop out from students' point of view.
- c. Vocational students' presentation about stop motion procedures has been really involving and successful. Students have been able to produce meaningful video clips with simple ,creative and effective supports.

Conclusion : The experience has been profitable and important for both teachers and students involved , the activities planned have been carried out in the given times. There has been a friendly cooperating atmosphere and everybody has learned something new. The variety of approaches and strategies have given good results . Cultural activities and excursions have favoured communication and relationship among all the participants , and the best moments have been reported through PPT group presentations or video clips. Vocational students' activity about stop motion has also been very important , their support and guide has been fundamental even if the time was not enough to go through the different stages of the procedure. Students' presentations of results to their mates have been involving and motivational they have been able to share their ideas and speak in front of an audience showing interest and respect for everybody's final work.

*(All the products have been uploaded on SMILE Google drive)

The responsible of the project

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