

## Be smart when in traffic! – Good practices of teaching traffic rules in Tompa Laszlo Primary School; the experience of 20 years

For 20 years, we have been educating our primary students to behave correctly and smart in the different traffic situations.

In the beginning, in 1999/2000 we held special lessons on the topic of traffic rules, two times a week, in the afternoon. The children participating in these classes have had the chance to learn the basic traffic rules, and to practice them on our bicycle track and in the school park. We were training a lot and we were participating on different road-traffic competitions. We have won several competitions on county-level and we have participated on a few national competitions as well.

Our competing team involved 10-12 pupils: third and fourth graders but from the 5-8 grades too.

From the year 2000 the road-traffic related competitions were organised here, in our school, by us. As the years went by, more and more pupils got interested in learning about traffic rules and participating in competitions.

I, as a teacher who is focusing on educating our pupils about traffic rules, also realised, that it is necessary to introduce the topic as a school subject on its own in the primary classes, in order to make it possible to measure the development of the children.

Every year I wrote a planning for this optional subject, therefore road-traffic rules became an official optional school subject.



When we started to teach this subject, our target group was a class of zero graders (6 years old children), therefore we have watched a lot of cartoons about behaving safely on the road, have made drawings and held mini-competitions.

We have built friendships with the local police officers, who helped us in preparing the students and organising the competitions.



Our educational activities had measurable results.

The students who were studying road traffic rules as first graders became first-prize winners on national level in 2012, which is no wonder, because they have learned this subject for eight years.



Beside the competitions, we mobilised the whole school, where lots of pupils are learning about traffic rules these days. In our educating processes we are focusing on teaching appropriate, conscious behaviour on the roads and sidewalks and on accident prevention.

This subject has reached its top this year, when we organised a whole day on this topic for the primary classes (200 pupils) with the help of a few policemen, and two of these classes are learning the subject officially.



Our school has an afterschool program, in which three classes are participating. The pupils are having biking classes on the school's bike track and in the renewed school park. They also have to participate in a high number of mini-competitions, to practice the theoretical knowledge related to the subject.

The target group is getting larger every day, nowadays its number is around 60. The older pupils also like to come and practice in the afternoons, when the weather is nice. All the pupils like to ride their bikes very much. We started our preparations for two local and two county-level competitions.

More and more colleagues are getting involved in educating the pupils about traffic behaviour.



While in 2000 I was the only one busy with this subject in 2012 we were already two and by this year there is already three of us: Imre Ildikó, Péterfi Antónia Imola and Sipos Péterffy Zoltán.

The number of traffic –behaviour related activities has also grown. The students of our school can practice two hours every day in May and June on the school track. As a conclusion I can say that these activities aiming to teach our pupils to behave properly in the different traffic situations are very effective: they are preparing the children for the real-life traffic situations and contributing to the decrease of the number of the accidents. They have a beneficial effect on pupils' attention, skill, aptitude, socialization.

The past 20 years have brought us a lot of experience.



Our intention is to further expand the target group and organize more diverse activities in the field of road-traffic behaviour.

Teachears:

Imre Ildikó

Péterfi Antónia Imola

Police:Aiacoboaiei Daniel Gheorghe

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