

## VALMIERA SECONDARY SCHOOL NO.2

LATVIA

20.01.2016.

### **Evaluation of Christmas event / Epiphany holiday**

#### *Description of the event*

The event has been organised for children of under aged mothers, who are students of Valmiera Evening Secondary school to involve them into school life. Most of them are not able to plan their time, they don't have necessary skills and sometimes resources to combine studying and child upbringing. That is why there is a big risk of leaving school.

Participation in the event was enough high; children with their mothers took place in all offered activities. After the event the mothers admitted that the time they spent with their children together was very valuable and they have learned some new skills for their children education.

Students from Students Council admitted that it was valuable for them to entertain preschool children as well as to realize what challenges young mothers have in their everyday life.

#### *Conclusions*

- All students (young mothers) were informed about the opportunity to participate in afterschool activities; Student Council created special invitations, personally spoke to each mother
- All school girl rights to take place in school extracurricular work were provided
- Support for one child with special needs was provided- this is a positive signal for the mothers who also have children with special needs, that it is possible to study and bring up the child at the same time because the school can provide at least partial support
- Support for mothers who have two or more children are provided – babysitting
- Closer cooperation between Student Council and their peers was encouraged and provided – for other students who are not able to participate in daily activities for various reasons

#### *Further work, recommendations*

- Students' children participation in the event showed that it is necessary to consider idea of purchase of technical supportive equipment and also about the special room for children with special needs
- To use positive experience, offering new mothers to express their own ideas for future events, thus increasing the sense of belonging to the school; it can be expected that they will attend the school more often, have positive marks and complete their education
- To estimate opportunity to organize events for mothers with children more often under school plan
- The event was attended only by some fathers of the children; to develop ways to involve children's fathers in this kind of activities as a resource to support young mothers to enable them to continue their studies
- Change the roles - young mothers can share their experience with young people from Student Council, in terms of the challenges they face in everyday life.