

ILP – Initiatief Klass

Observation place

We observed this pedagogy at "Philip Van Horn", a general school (HAVO = Hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs) of Weert in the Netherlands (Province of Limburg). This school serves young people after primary school to prepare them in 5 years for higher technical studies or applied sciences. Within the school, from the moment of the enrollment, students are divided into three categories according to the opinion of the primary school teacher and the result of the external final test of basic education:

"Blue": pupils for whom it is assumed that there will be no learning problem;

"Yellow": pupils for whom specific didactic support should be considered;

"Oranges": students with special needs, with combined difficulties of learning and social skills.

Brief description

The school offers individualized monitoring with a learning plan only for "orange" students. This monitoring includes:

- a teamwork of all the teachers;
- a strong parental involvement;
- a priority to self-knowledge and self-confidence;
- a work with the student based on what motivates him/her;
- a close accompaniment by a teacher who assumes the role of coach of the group;
- a special support from a person belonging to a psycho-pedagogical cell;
- a small number of students per class;
- a work in large, open spaces where students can move freely;
- a "cool off" space where students can go to find their calm back when necessary.

Presentation of the ILP tool

The student has at the beginning and end of the day a free time (PLT = Personal Learning Time) to update his/her lessons and do his/her homework in the presence of the coach. This moment also allows him/her to dialogue with the coach in order to build the mirror effect as to "his/her strengths and weaknesses" relative to the learned subject. The coach is attentive to the social and emotional development of the young person, to a particular and personalized didactics. Each student thus owns his/her developments and progress and builds his/her own learning plan (PLP = Personal Learning Plan). The rest of the day includes a theoretical approach in the morning and a theoretical approach in the afternoon. Theoretical times are organized in workshops about the different subjects. The student works independently, including with a lap-top to connect to the educational platform where he/she can do exercises that the teacher has planned. The practical times allow a polytechnic approach. Physical activities, metal workshops, wood workshops, artistic creation space, technical creation, musical creation. Moreover, students' projects or achievements are valued by their presentation and sometimes their follow-up in the world of art, entertainment and business. Some students are invited by a company or an artistic troupe. This helps a little more at work on self-confidence.

Keywords

Autonomy - empowerment - coaching

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