

## Hospital School – Special Education – Developmental Paediatrics Achievements, Examples, Multidisciplinary Networking

September 27-28, 2013  
Conference Report

The two day conference on hospital school-special education-developmental paediatrics was organized by DAA in cooperation with Arabkir MC&ICAH on September 27-28, 2013. It was supported by the partnership program between the Children's University hospital in Zurich, Switzerland and Arabkir MC&ICAH. The conference took place at Arabkir MC&ICAH conference hall. The **purpose** of the conference was to:

- To draw attention on the possible multidisciplinary professional cooperation in sake of the child, to better serve and satisfy different special needs of the child. Working examples were to be shown.
- To establish a core group which will further be built up to contribute to the development of possible network between different professionals working with the child.

The working hours of the conference were 11.00-17.00 with one hour lunch break 13.00-14.00. First half of both days carried different presentations from educational, medical and assessment professionals from different local institutions. Second half of both days were dedicated to discussions on multidisciplinary teams, collaboration techniques and models within the teams and with other professionals outside the team working in the field and providing different services to the children with special needs. Possible models and ways for networking /Special Educators' Club as a platform for discussions, experience exchange and practical workshops/ were shown and discussed. The center and the focus of the discussions was the multidisciplinary approach towards the child with special needs and his/her best interest /program of the conference as well as discussion outcomes are available upon request/.

The participants of the conference were special education teachers, psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, medical doctors from special and integration schools, local and international non-governmental organizations, other healthcare and educational institutions /list of participants available upon request/.

At the end of the conference the participants filled in feedback forms according to which we can conclude that the conference was a success.

As three important outcomes of the conference we have to mention

- A series of practical workshops will be organized for the participants of the conference by DAA.
- An initial network of professionals working with the child with special needs. This is a very basic list of different institutions and professionals working in the field both in Yerevan and different regions of Armenia. This list will be further edited - adding more resources available - and developed into a proper networking system.
- An initiative to build up a core group of 6-8 professionals with possible representative of ministry of education and science, assessment center, DAA, mental health professionals, adolescent doctors and NGO representatives will be put forward by DAA.

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