



Project Hospital-School - Home School

Collaboration between Monza hospital school and the local school

Evaluation of a multiyear experience

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One of the main aims of the Hospital School is to help children in hospital to keep in touch with their own local schools as well as with everyday life.

The Monza hospital school is part of a group of 65 Italian hospitals included in HSH@Network Project provided by the State Ministry of Education. The HSH-Monza project allows children hospitalized in Monza Pediatric Haematology Unit to collaborate online with some classes of the local Elisa Sala Junior High School in order to develop multidisciplinary projects by videoconference.

Since 2001/2002, Junior High School students taking part to the project have been requested to fill in a form to evaluate teaching objectives and the emotional impact of the experience.

The aim of our contribution is to present the evaluation method and the results of a multiyear monitoring and to reflect on the deep meaning of the collaboration between the local territory and the hospital.

Evaluation method

- The evaluation has been carried out by giving Junior High School students open answers questionnaires about previous knowledge of the hospital school, evaluation of the use of the project: didactic and educational value, personal feelings about the participation
- The data have been analysed and discussed by the operators to test and redefine the project

Results

According to the answers given by the Junior High School students, the videoconference has proved very useful to get a better knowledge of the hospital school.

The experience of collaboration with the hospital school children has been considered a very positive one, both for its educational aspect and for its relational impact.

Conclusions

Junior High School students, while just sitting at their own school desks, have been offered the opportunity to enter the hospital classroom, to learn something about the everyday life in hospital, to get in touch with ill children and teenagers, to cooperate and to work in a condition of equality, overcoming together difficulties and fears. The project has been an important occasion to test how a situation of difficulty can become an opportunity of integration and growth for the participants. When the hospitalized students are ready to go back to their local schools, the products made together not only represent their individual's experience, but also a concrete contribution to share with other people.