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Kindergarten nr 46  
Ul. Kieżycowa 10,  
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**Przedszkole nr 46** is a public kindergarten with 7 divisions, offering places for 175 children. To support individual development of each child the Kindergarten implements several innovative methods of work. It works according to the motto "What you can do today with the support of the adult, tomorrow you will be able to do yourself". Teachers in their work use "The Project Approach" where children, supported by teachers, conduct research focused on a certain subject, referring to their interests. Director and deputy director of the

kindergarten have been trained directly by prof. Lilian Katz, which later resulted in training of all the kindergarten staff.



Also other methods of working with children are implemented, such as "Sherborne Developmental Movement", a method using physical exercise and movement to develop communication, personal and social skills, "Education through movement approach", where integrated movement of different parts

of the body results in creating artistic work. "Spiel pedagogic" (pedagogy of play - Klanza) enriches the working programme.

Finally, adaptation programme for new children has been successfully implemented by teachers, which goal is to facilitate children in the process of adapting to kindergarten environment, actively involving in the process adults, parents and teachers.



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Kindergarten nr 42  
"Kwiaty Polskie"  
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**Przedszkole nr 42 "Kwiaty Polskie"** is a public kindergarten with 5 divisions, offering places for 125 children. The kindergarten is located in a worker's district of Poznan (Wilda) therefore it gathers children with very different backgrounds (families with difficult economic situation, caused by unemployment, families with many children as well as wealthy and middle class families). The mayor goal of the kindergarten is to provide comprehensive development of children, engaging in this process families and teachers, to ensure children's future success both educational and personal.

The kindergarten offers necessary conditions for children to gain new skills by implementing innovative methods of working with children.



"The Project Approach" has been implemented in the Kindergarten since 2005, where children have the opportunity to gain knowledge themselves, on a topic referring to their interests, and develop this knowledge by observation, experiments and field trips. Projects are implemented by qualified teachers, who due to several trainings with prof. Lilian Katz and Astrid Lindgren Institute constantly develop their skills and knowledge.



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Kindergarten nr 87  
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**Przedszkole nr 87 im. Jasia i Agatki** is a public kindergarten with 4 divisions, offering places for 100 children. It works with children according to the motto "Help me to do it myself". It is a constantly developing centre where children eagerly learn using artistic activity, are thought to be independent and to use their own potential.

The kindergarten has been implementing "The Project Approach" in education since 2005, and it is the leading working method for the teachers. The Kindergarten Director and one of the teachers have been trained directly by prof.

Lilian Katz, which was followed by the training of the rest of staff. After observing the benefits from implementing this method, to the children, teachers and parents, it has become the basis of everyday work in the Kindergarten. Since then, all implemented projects have been widely documented, presented and popularized among other kindergarten in Poznan.



pre-school children. Kindergarten cooperate on developing and testing these and new methods of work, as well as share their experiences with the project partners.

Representatives of Kindergarten (directors and teachers) participate in study visits and in the team work of experts, exchanging experiences and best practices in particular in terms of innovative methods of work for pre-school teachers. The Kindergarten staff take part in a series of trainings concerning both implementing and evaluating educational projects. During the project each Kindergarten implement at least 3 "educational projects" based on "The Project Approach", and then evaluate and document the process of implementation. Documentation of this process will be included in best-practice guide. After the end of the project, the Kindergarten will serve as consultation centers for other public kindergarten from the region, disseminating the project results.

**All three public kindergarten** have been invited to the partnership due to their experiences in implementing innovative methods of work with



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Experts on pre-school  
education from IMD:

**Astrid Lindgren Institute** for Early Childhood Development (IMD) is an NGO based in Poznań, active for the last 20 years in the field of supporting development and education of young children (up to 7 years old). Its actions are addressed directly towards children and to their social environment, families and educational institutions. As one of the first institutions in Poland, IMD has been promoting the importance of early childhood and good quality early education for people's lives and future success, professional, educational and

**Poznań City Hall**, Department of Education is responsible for all levels of schools and educational institutions in the city, except for universities, in particular for 116 public kindergartens. It serves mainly as a financing, controlling and managing body to these institutions, supports their basic activities, but also stimulates their development and additional activities, including teacher training, innovative managing and administration systems etc.



personal. The innovative approach of IMD activities combines modern psychological knowledge with practical experience.

Major activities of IMD include developing and implementing educational programmes for small children and their parents, training programmes for professionals, promoting best-practice examples in the field of childcare and education.

IMD is composed of an interdisciplinary team of specialists: psychologists, educators, pre-school teachers, sociologists and trainers. It has implemented several projects in the field of early childhood education.



The City of Poznań has well-established international relations with partner cities and international institutions (Eurocities etc). In particular cooperation with the City of Berlin is being successfully developed within the international network "Oder-Partnership". In the field of education the City of Poznań and its schools have implemented several international cooperation projects, in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme.

### Role in the project:

City of Poznań acts as a project leader and coordinator. It is a communication and managing centre for the project partners, responsible for running the project website and international dissemination of project results. Poznań City Hall is responsible for successful implementation of the project in Poznań and achieving all planned results, by coordinating the work of local partners.

Representatives of educational authorities participate in study visits and in the team work of experts, exchanging experiences and best

### Role in the project:

IMD is the main expert on the content of the project for all local partners in Poznań. Having vast experience in innovative methods of work for pre-school teachers, based on active learning, it shares its experience in particular concerning the "Engaging Children's Minds – the Project Approach by prof. Lilian Katz".

Representatives of IMD participate in study visits and in the team work of experts, exchanging experiences and best practices in particular in terms of developing innovative methods of work for pre-school teachers, presenting IMD activities and methods of work. IMD is responsible for preparing and conducting workshops for pre-school teachers and directors of Poznań's kindergarten and for coordinating the work on a publication presenting innovative methods of work based on active learning.

In cooperation with INA BeKi, IMD develops evaluation tools for monitoring of the project progress and documents the evaluation results.

practices in particular in terms of policy on pre-school education, quality development and assessment and providing educational services. Poznań City Hall participates in elaborating the best-practice guide and is responsible for organizing an international conference to present project results.

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**POZNAŃ**  
\* Eastern energy. Western style



**Young Children as Active LEarners**  
**Exploring their World**  
Improving quality of pre-school education by developing key competences  
of pre-school children through implementing methods of active learning

YALE is an international project between Poznań and Berlin, established in the framework of "Oder-Partnership", aimed to improve the quality of pre-school education. The idea of the project is to popularise the implementation of active learning methods based on educational projects with young children. In result the children become 'active learners', acquiring broader skills and competencies important for being successful in life.



foto: www.malgorzatasarnowska.pl

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