

Id f'Id Katina Wahda

For my project, I chose the first theme, Responsible Citizenship. My work involved working with boys aged between 11 and 14 in Ġebel San Martin, Żejtun and forms part of the Paolo Freire Institute. Activities were held every Tuesday. My aim in this project was to teach the boys what teamwork means. During the sessions, the boys had to develop their teamworking skills as well as leadership skills, their attitude towards other people, creativity, etc... "Id f'Id Katina Wahda" is the motto chosen for the talent show and means "hand in hand – one chain".

I chose this theme for this project because I wanted to experience a new challenge in life. I have never done community work before so this was my very first experience. I also wanted to form part of a team to help other people, in this case boys. I wanted to know what it feels like to help other people, whom I've never seen before and who are in need. The boys that I worked with do not live in the Paolo Freire Institute but all live with their families.

During my first session at Ġebel San Martin we met the boys for 1 hour which is usually divided in a particular activity and then the boys play football. After being introduced to Paolo Freire Institute and Ċentru Ġebel San Martin, a football tournament was organised for the boys. We (ie. the helpers) chose 3 boys as captains and each captain chose a boy in turn to form a team. We, together with the boys decided to make a triangular tournament so that each team can play 2 games.

In my second session the discussion on fair trade was made and then a quiz on Maltese proverbs was prepared. More interesting facts came out of the discussion on fair trade. In the second part of our session, a quiz on Maltese proverbs was prepared. Nine Maltese proverbs were written on pieces of cardboard and were cut in half. The children were divided in two teams and when the first part of the proverb was read out to them, one from each group had to choose the right second half to earn a point.

In the third session a quiz was prepared. The quiz consisted of some basic maths and physics questions. Also, some questions were related to sports, films and music so as the boys would not get bored. They were separated

into two teams and one member from each team had to answer the question. If answered wrong, some punishment would be given to the whole team.

During the fourth session the boys had to do a short play. The children were divided in 2 groups (3 in each group) and had to choose a topic on which they had to act on. The group had about 20 minutes to form a short play. One group decided to make a play about alcohol and its consequences whilst the other group decided to do a play on gambling.

In the fifth session a game of charades was prepared for the boys. Names of people and animals were written on small pieces of cardboard and the boys had to impersonate or mime according to the name. The boys were separated in two teams. One boy from each group had in turn to choose one piece of cardboard and read it. Then he had to impersonate or mime accordingly and his team had to guess the impersonation or mime.

In the sixth session the preparations for the talent show began. I had to help those boys who chose to do a dance/mime of a rock song called “Holiday” of Green Day. The other group chose to do a hip-hop song. Everyone agreed to do this but we didn’t go much further since we didn’t have the song available. This summer we were joined by some boys from the Hal Far Refugee Camp.

During the seventh session the proper rehearsals for the talent show began. The song “Holiday” was brought on a CD and was played using a CD player. The dance/mime had to have a plot in it. The main plot was this: one of the boys must be a drunken man whose friends don’t want him around them. Then he decides to run away but has an accident. A doctor comes and cures him. After this, his friends mimic play the guitar and he mimics singing the song. At the end of the song, the “drunken” boy falls and is caught by his friends.

In the eighth session the boys decided what props to use and clothes to wear. Then they continued the rehearsals. The main performer had to wear a light coloured shirt and the others a dark coloured shirt. The props consisted of four guitars made of carton and drums made of carton. One of the helpers offered to make them.

In the ninth session the rehearsals continued. That day was the day before the talent show. The boys made good progress during the rehearsals and felt confident all throughout. The boys helped each other out when some difficulty arose. After their last rehearsal, the boys felt more confident.

In the last session the actual talent show was held at Luqa Briffa Garden. In the morning the helpers met the boys and made their last rehearsals. Everyone went home at noon and then we all met at 5 o'clock and the boys made last minute rehearsals. When it was my group's turn to do the item, the boys were prepared and their performance went well. I was very proud of them and the boys were pleased with themselves for what they achieved.

During some sessions a stereo was used to play a song on a CD so that the boys could rehearse. This was useful because it was an easy way to rehearse. Sound is what can be perceived by a living organism through its sense of hearing. Physically, sound is vibrational mechanical energy that propagates through matter as a wave. For humans, hearing is limited to frequencies between about 20 Hz and 20000 Hz. Sound can travel through all forms of matter: gases, liquids, solids, and plasmas. However, sound cannot propagate through vacuum. Sound is transmitted through gases, plasma, and liquids as longitudinal waves. Through solids it can be transmitted as both longitudinal and transverse waves. The speed of sound depends on the medium through which the waves are passing. In general, the speed of sound is proportional to the square root of the ratio of the elastic stiffness of the medium to its density.

The main value that I tried to learn was to be responsible and mature to try to teach the value of teamwork to the boys. I think that I succeeded to do this because as time pass by, the boys were more working as group and helping each other. Also the discussion about fair-trade was beneficial to both me and the boys. From the discussions I became more aware of the reality of today's world. The boys enhanced their creativity through the drama session. I also learned some leadership skills during this project. Some of these skills were essential to handle difficult situations like lack of co-operation from the boys. But I'm pleased to say that at the end of the project, the boys gave co-operation more importance and this made it possible to make the talent show a success.

During this project, self-discipline was very important for me. I required concentration in the work that I was doing, commitment and dedication. The values mentioned above were also important as I learned new ones. I encountered some problems during the project but I still overcame them like lack of co-operation from the boys. I learned quite a deal from this project and I'd like to thank all helpers and activity co-ordinators who made this experience an enjoyable one.