



School Equity Best Practice

Title: Hospital School

Equity dimension:

- Fairness Inclusion Access Opportunities
 Personalised learning Personal and social development

Subject:

Hospital school
Home schooling
Inclusion
Sick children

Target groups:

- Early Years Primary education Lower secondary education
 Upper secondary education Vocational Training Other

Source:

Maria Letizia Verga's Centre at San Gerardo's hospital in Monza treats pediatric patients (0-18 years) with leukemia, lymphoma and other blood diseases. Our centre welcomes patients who come from different Italian regions and from abroad. Therapies last from six months to two years, during that period children need to be isolated most of the time and therefore cannot attend their home schools.

The hospital school at Maria Letizia Verga offers teaching to patients from 6-19 years of age. Our school includes 12 staff teachers from two state schools in Monza (Salvo d'Acquisto-primary school / lower secondary school and Mosè Bianchi, upper secondary school).

In our Center the hospital school is an integrant part of the multidisciplinary team which foresees the cooperation among doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, teachers, animation staff and volunteers with the aim of carrying out what we call "therapeutic alliance".

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Description:

The common aim of hospital school is to guarantee to the sick child the continuity of his education, even during the illness and also to facilitate his return to his own school:

- Maintaining the contact and the continuity between the reality of the child in hospital and the outside world through school activities
- Keeping the interest in cognitive activities
- Facilitating the return to the belonging school
- Recovering the autonomy and the ability to re organize the everyday life

Methodology:

The multidisciplinary team takes care of hospitalized children with an "holistic approach". The team includes a social worker, who also has the role of coordinator, two psychologists, two doctors, the teachers, a play activities coordinator and a music therapist. The goal of the team work is to ensure high quality of life to the patients until they are reintegrated back into their schools in a perspective of real inclusion. The teachers' activity is a vital part of this project. The team follows different steps:

- First of all, when children begin the treatment at Maria Letizia Verga's, they are welcomed by the social assistant who introduces and activates the services offered at the centre that the patients may need.

- the children are then welcomed by the teachers who get to know something about them and their school situation thanks to interviews with the children themselves, their families and their teachers. In particular, the teachers liaise with the children's home schools during their whole stay in hospital, up until their reintegration to school to ensure continuity and to make sure they do not miss any work.
- A personalized educational program is defined for every child together with the school of origin, which states the learning goals. This is our specific task.
- The multi-disciplinary team meets weekly. During each meeting new clinical cases are introduced and old ones are discussed. The doctor gives updates regarding the health condition of our pupils and their attendance of day hospital for their therapies. During this meeting the different activities of the centre such as school, art-therapy, psychological assistance, social activities, sport therapy are programmed and coordinated. There are meetings between the different members taking part in the project:
 - Every week for the psycho-social team
 - Every week with the pedagogist
 - Every year to plan the whole project
 - Every year for medical updating.

Resources:

Our school staff includes two primary school teachers, three full-time and three part-time lower secondary school teachers, three upper secondary school teachers and a teacher for children with special needs.

For the upper secondary school there are two teachers who, besides teaching their subject (Italian), also coordinate a group of colleagues belonging to the Network of all high schools in Monza. These teachers give the pupils the possibility to be taught a wide variety of subjects.

The Monza hospital school is part of a group of hospitals, promoted by the Italian Ministry of Education which provides teachers training, notebooks and technological didactic tools.

At Monza Hospital School the integrated model is put into practice thanks to the use of some specific procedures and methods. Members of the team have instruments at their disposal which enable them to gather information regarding the children. In this context it is very important to have an efficient internet connection, reliable devices, computer technicians and specific agreements between school and hospital.

Outcomes:

Our hospital school service is verified with an evaluation system and redefinition of the educational plan. Pupils and parents are given a survey and the outcome is presented to the psycho-social team who will evaluate the educational plan, make proposals and give suggestions for continuous improvement.

The percentages of admission of the students to the next class is a benchmark of the academic success rate.

Supporting documents:

Introduction to Monza school hospital

<https://youtu.be/GS1a4VHXPRg>

Technologies and hospital school in Monza

<https://youtu.be/u2SY9hTj8rl>

Human sources

<https://youtu.be/m0IEMeQzfb8>

Comitato Maria Letizia Verga channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ComitatoVerga/videos>

Interview:*the practice should include a recorded video interview to one of the users about the benefits of the good practice. The video should be in English or subtitled. Maximum 3 minutes. Write the video URL here*