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Anna Khomenko

**CENTRE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT
TO FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN
AS A SOCIAL PROJECT**

One of the special features of modern society is a permanent increasing of congenital and hereditary diseases, progressive growth of chronic somatic diseases and, as a result, raising the total number of children with disabilities [2 p. 20–21].

According to the current statistics, in our country almost every second child is born with a certain health problem [1].

Theoretical-methodological analysis of psychological and educational references affirms that the Ukrainian researchers, in particular, L.S. Vavina, T.A. Vlasov, M.S. Pevzner, L.I. Plaksyn, K.S. Lebedynska, L.I. Solntseva, T.G. Ehorova, and many others, investigate the issue of disabled children. Following a line of their investigation is a much-needed aspect. There is a social need to tap in a more varied range of ways the social barriers the disabled children have to face.

“The Equality Act 2010”, building upon “The Disability Discrimination Act”, provides one useful definition of disability. A person has a disability if he (she) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities” [4].

For that reason, such children and members of their families have numerous problems: social isolation, financial difficulties, housing problems, lack of medical and social support, etc. [3]. The links between poor health, disability and poverty / inequality also provide an important context for the need for and provision of services for disabled children [4]. Disabled children are by no means a homogeneous group and do not have a uniform set of needs. They live their lives in the context of a



very wide and changing range of needs – from single disabilities to multiple, some more visible than others, as well as conditions that will have very varied impacts on aspects of children’s lives. These may include behavioural impacts as well as life-limiting impacts on physical and mental health.

Within this context, social attitude towards disabled children will evolve in understanding of the landscape of services and ways of their development and socialization. The children do not want to be only “service users”; they have aspirations and desires for wider life experiences and opportunities.

In our opinion, project activity is able to solve a large number of issues relevant to children with disabilities for the reason that projects permeate among all spheres of human existence. Projects for this vulnerable category of children (“Home Library”, “Books on Wheels” (project for those who can leave the house) “Art for the Disabled”, “Special Olympians”, “Culture and Disabled” (designed for those with certain complexes associated with age and health), School of Humanity, “You Know – I am the Next!”, “We All Can!”) purpose at successful social integration. In addition, a project involves its participants into active social life along with dynamic cultural activities.

All the projects have a common objective – to change the life of a child with a disability, filling it with a new content and helping to maintain physical condition and take pleasure in life.

Our project “The Centre of Social Support for Families with Handicapped Children” aims to improve social protection of children with special demands who live in Poltava by providing innovative services in the Centre of Social Support for Families with Disabled Children. Such institution will facilitate preventing all types of social exclusion of early age children and their families.

Creating the Centre of Social Support for Families with Disabled Children will be linked with broad presentation of the project in the local media and the Internet. Other parts of the project are: locating information banners in the hospitals of Poltava, establishing

a consulting office, developing a full range of registration services provided for children with disabilities and their families.

Therefore, the key project goals are:

- firstly, establishing the Centre of Social Support to Families with Disabled Children.
- secondly, conducting a campaign of civil presentation of a range of innovative services for disabled children and their parents.

We are sure that an information bank for parents and professionals is able to provide appropriate counteraction to the crisis caused by the imperfection of public services for the disabled children as well as to develop a joint strategy for preventing corruption amongst medical staff and social workers.

Thus, “The Centre of Social Support for Families with Handicapped Children” project will create adequate conditions for effective socialization of the disabled children and their families. Project practice is a kind of social respond in an innovative and creative way of providing a level of service that meets needs as effectively and efficiently as possible in the light of challenges both now and in the future.

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ВИКОРИСТАННЯ АУДІО- ТА ВІДЕОМАТЕРІАЛІВ НА ЗАНЯТТЯХ З ІНОЗЕМНОЇ МОВИ

Сучасність ставить перед нами все нові і нові завдання, вирішувати які доводиться щодня. Щоб відповідати потребам