

The 3th World Play Day in Turkey, 17th-18th of May 2012

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We celebrated WPD, 17th-18th of May, for two days at Marmara University/Istanbul/Turkey. Our main topic was “Outdoor Play and Outdoor Playground” in 2012 about WPD. We celebrated the day based on this main topic. Firstly, we made a meeting with two groups of my university students (both Early Childhood Education Department and Special Needs of Children’s Department) at the beginning of the term. Every student groups prepared an “outdoor play area” and also their “play materials” to use that day. We had 43 pupils as voluntary for World Play Day events.

Meanwhile, one of my colleagues in the art department made “The Third World Play Day Pamphlet”. My organization included:

- “The message of WPD in 2012” to deliver to the students in our campus
- The WPD Symposium which was named “Outdoor Play and Outdoor Playground” May of 17th, 2012. Eight colleagues made presentations about the importance of “Meaning and Importance of the World Play Day for Turkey” in WPD Symposium. The names of our presentations were
 - “Intangible Cultural Heritage and Traditional Children’s Games”
 - “Square Toys and Present Reflections”
 - “The Importance of Free Play for Children”
 - “Using Morracon Children’s Play and Toy Making Activities for Pedagogical and Social-Cultural Applications”
 - “Outdoor Played Traditional Children’s Games”
 - “The Influences of Outdoor Plays of The Child Development Area”
 - “Child-Friendly Outdoor Game Fields In the Creation of The Responsibility of Local Governments”.

After the symposium one of my colleagues and his students from art department was given concert which is name “Toy Symphony” prepared by made Leopold Mozart. All audience was effected that presented works. It was so wonderful moments for all audience.

The next day, we started “our traditional parade” with the participation of students from the Early Childhood Department and the Special Needs of Children Department. All of my students wore a special t-shirt which was prepared for that day. The students separated into nine groups to walk for toy parade. Every group carried “made-by-you outdoor play materials”. All students said “tongue twister” loudly during traditional toys parade. One of the students handed out the “World Play Day Message” to students during parade.



After the parade, we came back to outdoor playgrounds. Our students prepared “outdoor playgrounds” in our department garden. We had seven outdoor play corners designed by the students mentioned before:

1. Kite making, finger print
2. Swing, snake and ladders
3. Ludo and peg top,
4. Toys car ve man gala game
5. Mikado sticks and, hula-hoop
6. Fishing
7. Target area, Circle



Mangala Game



Children queuing to play



Parents also playing



In the department garden

At 11.00, one of kindergarten schools with students came to participate in the play in our department garden. There were almost 50 kindergarten children with their parents also three preschool teachers.

It was such a joyful day for the children and also their parents. Some children had to wait in a queue to use some play materials.

We gave balloons to the children that participated.



Then, we asked everyone to write their feelings about participating on red heart paper. The participants wrote for example:

- “We thank all people who organized this nice activity as Primary School, class ‘Bulutlar’. You have us to go back to our childhood. (As mothers)”
- “The child slept in my heart awoke. Games, games and games... happy ‘world playing day’ for everyone”,
- “I am Nur. It was so nice that Dilara won. My lovely friend. Today is so nice. - Primary School, nursery class”.
- “I am Defne, I felt so happy here. Games were nice greatly. Primary School, nursery class”
- “I am Dilara. When I won, I wanted to shout like ‘yupppiii’. I am so happy since I could play with my friends. Primary School, Nursery class”.
- “Absolutely that was a great day. I hope, everyone will understand value of the ‘playing game’,
- “We had nice two days. I hope this day will celebrate with same way in the next years”,
- “That was a wonderful day”,
- “It is so nice that our children could learn our time’s games”
- “Playing games In Marmara university campus, 2012 that we played in streets , 1990s ... was very touched. Thanks everybody!”
- “I am happy because it was a nice day. It is better to lengthen playing days. I went back to my childhood. Thanks. University Students”
- “To Marmara University Preschool Teaching Department: In my opinion, playing activity which we attend with students and parents was spectacular. We had fun, played, laughed, and lightened. Thanks all my friends who contributed efforts and all teachers, Primary School, Preschool Teacher”
- “Playing game like a child was nice for both children and adults”
- “We appreciate you for all your efforts. Everything, all games were so good and funny too. Thank you so much for this great organization”
- “I like your nice project so much. Celebrating such an important activity, playing, made me so happy” University Students”
- “Today will be never forgotten for my child. We are so happy. Thanks for everything”
- “This is the day of playing game of children from all over the world. I and my grandson Efe are happy”
- “I am so happy, very nice environment was organized. It is an environment where both adults and children can have fun”

Also, that day one of my students department of special needs of children and I presented a conference which was named “Frobel’s Gifts and Outdoor Play”. In the afternoon, we made a closing ceremony with the participants from our department. We gave certificates of attendance to students and one cock candy on 18 May as a gift.

We have just decided our theme for next year which will be named “**We are playing everywhere and every place**”.