

Spring Snail Races in Croatia for World Play Day

Since 2005, *Spring Snail Races* are organized in the Children's Department of the Public library Vlado Gotovac in Sisak, Croatia. That spring event always causes great enthusiasm, as much with the children as the adults.

During the whole week on the eve of World Play Day this, we could call it, project includes: research literature about snails (their anatomy, nutrition habits and way of life) and after that librarians organize a quiz about it. For pre-schools, games are organized, parents read aloud Julie Donaldson's picture book *Snail and the Whale* and rhymes from the collection *Snail on Vacation* of the well-known Croatian children's poet, Stanislav Femenić.

After that the "snail-competitors" pass a very detailed examination and a race of dozens of snails with very significant names (Arrow, Thunder, Speedy, Lightning etc.) can start. The winner takes the special prize – lettuce. With many cheering and singing old traditional song about snails, the fans get winner!

Every year the *Spring Snails Race* expands to a few new libraries. This year Istra Region/County had an inter-county race with a large audience.



Snails' feeding



Story about snails



Examination of snails



Snails' race