

World Play Day 2011, Turkey, 25-26 May: Traditional Games and Toys
Reported on by Isik Kamaraj

We celebrated WPD for two days at Marmara University. Our theme was **Traditional Toys and Games**. Students from the Early Childhood Education Department and the Special Needs Department participated. My colleagues prepared Turkish traditional Eyup toys, traditional games, a traditional toy statue named Cambaz and World Play Day pamphlets. I wrote the message for WPD 2011 to deliver to the students.

On the morning of 26 May, we arranged a panel presentation on the importance of traditional toys and games. In the afternoon, we held an Eyup toys parade with the students dressed in special WPD t-shirts and carrying the statue and hand-made Eyup toys. The parade visited the dean of the Faculty of Education, the rector's building and then the campus. We played traditional games with the dean and gave t-shirts to the dean and deputy dean. The students loudly recited the slogan "Marmara play with us". One handed out the World Play Day message.

After the parade we prepared play corners with traditional Turkish games in the garden. University students participated in play. The groups who prepared the play corners showed other students how to play the traditional games.

We asked participating students to write their feelings about their play on red paper hearts. Responses included, "World Play Day, reminded me of my childhood and I felt so happy." "Jumping rope, dominoes bring us comfort and joy". "I am so delighted and also I looked forward to this day", "It was so enjoyable. Games are not just for children. People shouldn't give up playing, I think". "I never thought I would play games in the garden of the university."

The following morning, we continued with World Play Day. In the afternoon, we held a closing ceremony. We gave certificate of attendance and candy to students.

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