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TESTIMONIAL

Hands-on Pedagogy for Early Childhood Education: From Sensory Education to First ICT Uses

Training in Dublin, Ireland

6th – 11th April 2026

My Erasmus mobility course at Europass Teacher Academy was an enriching and transformative experience. The course focused on hands-on, inclusive learning inspired by the Montessori sensorial approach, where students actively engage in group work while the teacher takes on the role of an observer and guide. This method encouraged embodied learning, helping students form deeper and more meaningful connections.

A key takeaway was the shift in mindset: mistakes were embraced as part of the learning process rather than something to avoid. By fostering a growth mindset, teachers set higher expectations, which in turn empowered students to achieve more and build confidence.

We explored a variety of creative and practical strategies. Activities such as the “scarf story” for storytelling, puppets for free play, paper birds to encourage social interaction, and the “mystery bag” to stimulate speech all demonstrated how simple tools can have a powerful impact. Even bubbles were used effectively for emotional regulation. The use of blindfolds proved particularly valuable, as it enhanced sensory focus and helped students better understand tasks by isolating specific senses.

We also applied thinking routines such as “See, Think, Wonder” to promote observation and inquiry, alongside “identifying, matching, and grading” activities to strengthen critical thinking skills. In addition, we explored innovative digital tools, including ChatterPix Kids for storytelling, Classroom Zen for managing classroom noise, Suno AI for creating songs, and StoryJumper to publish our own books.

Beyond the academic aspect, the experience was enriched by cultural exchange. Meeting educators from different countries during activities such as the food fair, a walking tour of Dublin, Irish dancing sessions, and excursions to Glendalough and Russborough House allowed us to share perspectives and broaden our understanding of education across cultures.

Overall, this was a truly rewarding experience that I will always cherish, both professionally and personally.



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