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TESTIMONIAL

**Job Shadowing in
Camilo Castelo Branco School Group,
Portugal
4th and 8th May 2026**

Our Erasmus+ job shadowing experience in Portugal provided a valuable insight into a child-led education. By spending full days observing children ages 3 to 6, we experienced how a mixed-age environment encourages natural peer learning, where older children support and guide younger ones. Each day begins with calming music and meditation, helping children settle into a focused and relaxed state, ready for learning.

Pedagogy and Autonomy

The educator serves as a role model, but the children lead the daily rhythm, including practical tasks like preparing tables. Learning is driven by curiosity rather than a rigid timetable:

Literacy and Numeracy: These are integrated through play. For example, a child-selected “word of the day” is explored through syllables, rhymes, and counting activities, with progress carefully being observed and recorded by the teacher.

Reflective Evaluation: Children reflect on their work at the end of activities, sharing feedback with peers and generating ideas for future learning.

Independence and Community

The school promotes holistic development by emphasizing healthy eating, good manners, and safety awareness, including road safety. A particularly valuable aspect of the experience was the strong focus on outdoor learning. Once a week, the children spent time in the forest, where they engaged in hands-on, real-life experiences that encouraged exploration and discovery. We were especially impressed by the children’s high level of independence. They confidently used tools, completed tasks, and solved problems on their own without seeking adult assistance.

In conclusion, this Erasmus+ job shadowing experience in Portugal was both inspiring and enriching. It demonstrated how a child-led approach nurtures independence, confidence, and a love for learning. Observing this environment has encouraged us to reflect on our own practice and explore new ways to promote autonomy and meaningful learning.



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Katya Ciappara
Theresa Nuzzo School

