

Information about VET providers good practice

CHILDCARE CENTRE IN VOCATIONAL SCHOOL - A NOVELTY IN LITHUANIA

It has already been two years since Vilnius Vocational Training Centre for Service Business Specialists (hereinafter – the Centre) has opened a childcare centre, where future nannies provide personalized childcare services free of charge for students of the school and other community members with children at the age of 3-12 years. It is the first childcare centre in the vocational school in Lithuania. Its main goal is to assist young people in combining learning, career and family life, to improve social conditions and to increase attractiveness of vocational education and training.

The results of the periodical surveys of students in the Centre indicate that each year 6 % of students leave the school and do not acquire vocational qualification. A part of drop outs does not continue education due to child's birth. Growing family increases financial problems for young people and limits their educational prospects. It is mostly common that a young mother chooses to raise a child, thus refusing and postponing learning. Seeking to solve these problems, i.e. to help young women to combine learning and raising children, a modern childcare centre was established with the support from European Union structural funds. The results of the last two years activities are excellent – it has been noted that the childcare services have made a positive impact on the attractiveness of the school and the number of students who wish to receive initial vocational qualification is increasing. According to the results of annual applicants survey the main criteria for their choice is the quality of training as well as good conditions for learning. A part of students enrolled in 2009 have chosen the programmes of the Centre only because of the childcare centre. Young mothers are happy that they can combine education and motherhood.

Nanny training programme is one of the many programmes offered by the Centre. Childcare centre has become a modern base for trainings of nannies. Before its establishment the future nannies had opportunity to gain practical experience only in pre-school educational institutions of the town. At the moment they develop skills in the modern, well equipped training base. The students are constantly supervised and advised by qualified vocational teachers. It has been noted that having the opportunity to work in childcare centre regularly, future nannies acquire the required competencies and, later on, are more confident of their knowledge and skills.

To summarise, the childcare centre has served its purpose because it is not only a modern practical training base for nannies, but it is also a considerable help for young families of the Centre (both, students and employees) who raise small children. Mothers using this service free of charge are glad that their children receive methodical and professional education while they study nearby. Modern VET infrastructure encourages integrity of young people, develops their independence, responsibility and sociality, helps to gain working and social skills and competencies that are necessary in the modern life.

Rita Pečiukaiytė

Director of Vocational Training Centre for Service Business Specialists

e-mail: direktore@pvdprc.lt

<http://www.pvdprc.lt>