

INTOUCH

ISSUE 50 - November 2022



Foreword

November was indeed a fruitful month, whereby a number of different initiatives were spearheaded in order to enhance our services. The primary objective of these initiatives is that FES increases the accessibility to its services, and also enhances the quality of the service delivered to the children and their parents.

The extension of hours in six of the FES Childcare Centres has started. The centers at Birgu, Birkirkara, Naxxar, Pembroke, Haż Żebbuġ, and Qawra, are now accepting children between 6am and 6pm, from Monday to Friday. This is another commitment by FES to help parents manage their working hours and their family commitments.

Another milestone that has been reached was the successful rolling-out of the Emergent Curriculum in four more of the FES Childcare Centres. This child-led type of pedagogy was welcomed by the selected centres and the childcare educators have embarked on implementing it with diligence and enthusiasm.

Member of the FES management team was also engaged representing FES as guest speakers on a number of television and radio shows, to promote and offer an insight into all the services offered by FES.

The month of November also saw FES deliver on its corporate social responsibility commitment, and hand over to Hospice Malta the generous sum collected by child, parents, and staff, across all the services.

We invite you to keep on following our portal at fes.gov.mt, and the official Facebook page, for any future news and updates about our activities, job opportunities, and ongoing training courses.

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Message from the Chairperson



Dear All

It is that time of year again. Christmas is fast approaching, and the New Year is round the corner.

It is considered as the most wonderful time of the year. As we face these exciting times, I must turn to our educators and staff and thank them for their work during the past year. Furthermore, let us remind ourselves that Christmas for some of our young clients, is not a season of cheer. Let us go that extra mile and help them celebrate in the best way we can. Little things can make a difference in the lives of many. It doesn't have to be anything costly, at times even a word, a song, or a craft, can make a

difference in a child's life. Let us be the light in their young lives.

As we enter the next chapter, I have to look back at this past year and congratulate us all for the milestones we have reached. For the new things that have been introduced and for bettering the service given by the Foundation of Educational Services. As FES we have listened to our clients, partners, and employees, and tried to keep on building upon the strong foundation. All this to strive to extend the FES' impact, increase our reach and accelerate our pace.

WORDS OF THANKS

I close this note with thanks on several fronts. First, a heartfelt thank you to the CEO Michael Bondin, for being the driving force of the entity as he is about to celebrate a year in this position. To the staff at the Head Office, at the Childcare Centres, Klabb 3-16 and all those who participated in SkolaSajf 2022, I thank you for both your hard work and the inspiration you give me. I also thank our Board of Directors, both for giving me this opportunity and for their helpful guidance as I continue this journey. I look forward to working with them for years to come.

And finally, a heartfelt thanks to you, our clients, for your trust in our entity. The staff and myself at the Foundation for Educational Services, pledge our commitment to live up to that trust, as we work to fulfil our purpose and create value for you.

Pamela

Message from the CEO

It may seem a cliché to say that time has flown by, but this year was a whirlwind!

Going through my records and listing all the work done, I realise that my first year as the FES CEO has been a learning curve and a year of achievements all in one. Leaving my role of a school Head Master was not an easy decision to take, for my love for the field of Education and for the welfare of the students has always been paramount in my career. However, my role at FES has strengthened those values, and also exposed me to a wider target audience that reaches families even more personally than I have ever done before.



Delivering services that support the family from birth to the school leaving age, and delivering on a national platform, can be a daunting task. However, I have found a team of people rallying behind me to support my views and aspirations for the Foundation. Working with like-minded people who hold dear the same principles, makes each seemingly insurmountable task an ideal challenge to take on for the benefit of the families whom we serve.

During this year, Skolasajf once again caught up with the pre-COVID number of service users, and was of ongoing support for parents of students with disabilities, as the service was offered for the first time over 5 days per week, instead of just three days. The childcare centres are also becoming more accessible as since October 2022, we extended the hours of service in 6 of our centres. We have rolled out an extensive training programme for employees across the three services, and are keen on implementing a more value based programme of activities with a focus on quality and staff performance. All this and more, thanks to the collective effort of all my colleagues, whose work and commitment are deeply appreciated.

A year done and dusted, and what a year it has been!

Merry Christmas to All!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M'.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FES Reaching out to HOSPICE Malta



In the annual list of corporate social responsibility commitments on the FES agenda, lies the undertaking of raising awareness about cancer, and creating fund raising opportunities for related causes, throughout the months of October and November.

Funds are collected in a three-way approach, as service users and staff in the Childcare and Klabb 3-16 Centres, and staff members at Head Office, organise different activities that highlight the importance of a healthy lifestyle, and of helping others in need.



This year this collective effort reached the handsome sum of €2000, which was donated to Hospice Malta. The FES CEO Michael Bondin presented the sum to the Chief Relations Officer of Hospice Malta, Mr Andrew Zammit. Mr Zammit thanked all the contributors and spoke about how the funds will contribute to help Hospice Malta continue to offer its services to the increasing number of cancer patients that need help, especially in palliative care.

Our appreciation goes to all those children, parents, and staff members, who once again showed their generosity in support for such a noble cause.

THANKYOU!



More information how one can help Hospice Malta carry on with its mission can be found at:

<https://hospicemalta.org/supporting-hospice/donations/>

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Emergent Curriculum in our Childcare Centres

The implementation of a pedagogy based on the children's interest within the FES childcare centres, continued in earnest as four more centres received training on the emergent curriculum. The training was a combination of theory and hands-on activities.

In fact, four centre coordinators participated in a two-week course, delivered by **Ms Kathryn Xuereb** who is a Programme Coordinator within the Programmes Department at FES. The course was held at *Il-Bebbuxu*, where the child-led approach is the basis for all the learning opportunities that are presented in the centre. This principle is the foundation for the planning and preparation of the programme, which is based on the children's interests and needs. Each of the four centre coordinators was supported by their colleagues at Il-Bebbuxu, as they immersed themselves in the centre's programme of activities and engaged with the children.

This peer-to-peer learning served as a great development tool to bridge the gap between experienced and developing employees. It encouraged collaboration and connectivity, and strengthened the networking between the centres.

Following the two-week training, each Centre Coordinators chaired a seminar with their own staff, where they shared their insights and nexperience. Useful resources were the videos of the learning opportunities the Centre Coordinators had participated in, which allowed the Childcare Educators to witness also the children's reactions. The centre's staff also participated in workshops about loose parts and schematic play. A professional in the field of Early Years Education was also invited to deliver a short session about the importance of the child-led approach.

FES would like to thank all the participants who were involved in this training course, with special thanks to the host Centre Coordinator and Childare Educators at *Il-Bebbuxu*.



CHILDCARE CENTRE ACTIVITY

Žmeraldi Childcare Centre— Let's Discover Autumn



The magical effect of falling autumn leaves have inspired the childcare educators at **Žmeraldi Childcare Centre** to organize an educational activity that encourages children to discover and learn more about the four the seasons.

The activity prepared for the children had plenty of surprises in store, for little did they know that they were in for a wonderful journey of exploration and investigation. A tuff tray covered with dried leaves was assembled and used to encourage hands-on learning through play. A number of learning resources such as magnifying lenses and jumbo colorful tweezers were also included to encourage children to look closely at the leaves and engage themselves further with this activity. The use of jumbo tweezers presented an excellent opportunity for the children to practice the tripod grip and further enhance their fine motor skills. Handling and observing the leaves through a magnifying glass helped the children to connect to the natural environment and in the process develop their sensory skills.

This activity presented a multitude of learning opportunities whereby children had the perfect setting to put their creative skills into practice with the resources and textures provided.

FES CHILDCARE NEWS

A lend-on library at Il-Bebbuxu Childcare Centre

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of book is the best of all.

Jacqueleine Kennedy

The team members at **Il-Bebbuxu Childcare Centre** at St Venera, have worked on the successful launch of a book lending library within the centre.

This initiative is the brainchild of the coordinator of the centre **Ms Thelma Gatt**, who thought of transforming a dedicated area on the premises and maintaining it in a very sustainable manner, by collecting donated books.

One cannot underestimate the importance of books for children, from an early age. Books help to stimulate the children's imagination and creativity while also building language skills. The availability of books in a childcare centre is an optimal resource, used by adults to read to children, and by children to look at pictures while using their imaginations, and create their own stories.

This lovely children's book collection is now available for all the children attending the centre, to borrow books and experience the beauty of literacy and storytelling at home as well. Parents are encouraged to make use of this service to help continue to foster the love of reading in their children.

This initiative is in fact another step that consolidates the FES adherence to the **National Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care Services**, which highlight the importance of working in partnership with parents in the quality area of learning and care. This project is another way how the FES childcare centres support parents in the educational journey of their children, and guide and support parents in the learning and development progress of their children.

Not only is this project designed to nurture the love for books and reading from a very young age, but children and adults are also being taught about the importance and advantages of sustainability.

Il-Bebbuxu would like to thank Recycle Malta and the Central Public Library in Floriana for their donations.



FES CHILDCARE NEWS

Longer Hours of Service at FES Childcare Centres

The FES childcare centres have started to offer the service over a longer period of hours in six of its centres.

The centers can be found in the localities of **Birgu, Birkirkara, Naxxar, Pembroke, Ғaž Žebbuğ** and **Qawra**.

These centres are now accepting children between 6am and 6pm, from Monday to Friday.

Parents interested in using this service are encouraged to contact FES, or any of the chosen centres, or visit the servizz.gov hubs, for more information.

Queries to FES can be asked via 22586829 or via email to fes.gov.mt.

Alternatively one can call the centres directly and speak to the Centre Coordinators, who will be more than happy to assist with any queries.

Il-Kuluri

Birgu - Tel. 2180 9285

Il-Ferrovija

B'Kara -Tel. 2598 5561

Pizzi Pizzi Kanna

Naxxar -Tel. 2598 6820

Il-Merill

Pembroke -Tel. 2137 6644

Žmeraldi

Ғaž Žebbuğ -Tel. 2598 7681

Ix-Xemx

Qawra - Tel. 2598 6996



Parents who are currently using the service in a centre without the extended hours, can opt to apply for a transfer of service according to vacancies.

APPLYING FOR OUR CHILDCARE SERVICE?

Many prospective clients ask us about the process how to choose a centre, and how to apply for our childcare service. In a nutshell, here is how:

- i. Choose your preferred centre from the list found at https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Centres/centres_child_care.aspx
- ii. You can also have a look at the inside of the centres, by watching the videos at <https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Child%20Care/Videos.aspx>
- iii. You can download an application form from <https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/registrations.aspx>
- iv. You can also contact the chosen centre directly, ask for a tour of the place, and get the application form directly from the centre.



- i. Children can be registered at the centre by handing over to the Centre Coordinator, the filled-in application form together with the necessary documents. Only one application per child is to be submitted.
- ii. The Centre Coordinators and the FES FB Messenger service, are always available to answer your queries. The Centre Coordinators will also be available to help you fill in the application form.
- iii. The childcare service is offered to children until they are eligible to move on to the government Kindergarten. Children who are 3 years of age by end of April are eligible for Kindergarten on the 1st of February, while children who are 3 years of age by end of December are eligible for Kindergarten on the 1st of October, of that same calendar year.

FES KLABB 3-16 ACTIVITIES

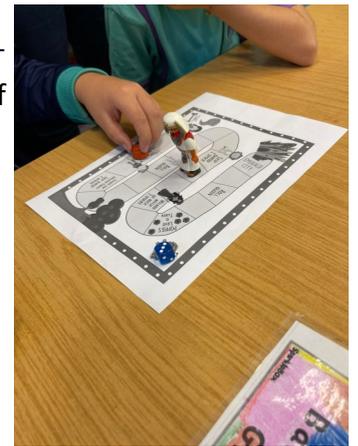
Siggiewi Klabb go to Emerald City!

The November Klabb 3-16 programme took children on a magical tour of our beloved childhood stories. The aim was to encourage children to use their imagination and visualise the wonderful tales full of extraordinary characters. The ability to imagine and be creative encourages children to be problem solvers, inventors, writers and creators of wonderful things. Every story provided ample material for a theme to be discussed by the children. Practicing to express one's point of view, as well as listen to someone else's point of view, is a skill that needs to be honed and practiced.

The story depicted here is "The Wizard of Oz" where the students re-created the characters as they journeyed to Emerald City. They met Dorothy, the little girl who ended up in an alternative world; the Scarecrow, who wished he had brains; the Tin Woodman who longed for a heart; and the Cowardly Lion who sought courage. They faced many trials along their route, but they overcame them all, often because of the Scarecrow's good sense, the Tin Woodman's kindness, and the bravery of the Cowardly Lion.

This fantasy tale is a fountain of wisdom as it teaches us to:

- * **Face our fears**
- * **Lend a helping hand, and work as a team**
- * **Defend ourselves and others**
- * **Appreciate that we are worthy just as we are**



KLABB 3-16 JOB OPPORTUNITIES



FES Job Opportunities

Part-time employment after school hours? Join us!
Work as a Playworker, as a Child Support Worker, or as a Tutor.

Where?

In the local primary schools close to where you live!

Flexible hours between 2pm and 6pm

All employment benefits in place.

**On offer is also the free of charge Playworker Course,
which guarantees you the job.**

**For more information, call 22586811/25/30 or
check out our website
<https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/>**

Terms and Conditions & Eligibility Criteria apply

 fes@gov.mt

 www.fes.gov.mt

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 programmes.fes@gov.mt

Meet Our Staff Members

Name: Tracy Vella Haber

Role: Homework Tutor at Klabb 3-16 Victoria, Gozo



Name three things which you never leave the house without.

I wouldn't leave home without my mobile phone and keys mostly. These are my means of communication and accessibility of course, and so are very important for the rest of my day. The third item would probably depend on the weather or where I would be going, so is prone to change each time.

If you could get rid of one month out of the year, which month would it be and why?

Since I am a mum and a teacher, and I also work part-time as HW Tutor during the Klabb 3-16 service, life can be quite hectic. Therefore I think that I would get rid of the month of October, because during this month, life is too hectic and stressful with school and all the extra curricular activities starting all together. However of course that would mean that I would be faced with the same problem in November! Perhaps the staggering of the commencement of the services would be better!

What's the funniest thing you've ever heard a child say?

My daughter was at the tender age of 3 when she lost her grandpa. She asked her grandma where nannu was, and when her grandma replied "Għand il-Bambin" she replied "then why didn't you go with him?" She thought he had been to church. Although it was a difficult time for all of us, we couldn't help but laugh.

What do you believe is your greatest virtue and how has it impacted your life?

My greatest virtue is courage. Being courageous has helped me a lot especially when I had my children. Their birth and early childhood care coincided with my studying for a Degree and a Masters at University. As any new parent knows, caring for a newborn is a daunting task. You have a tiny baby whose only method of communication is crying and is entirely dependent on you for everything. The sense of responsibility, particularly after years of taking care only of yourself, can be overwhelming. Coupling that with full-time studying at tertiary level is enough to make one break a sweat. However thankfully, I persevered.

If you had to take up an activity, would it be dancing, kick-boxing, or meditation?

I would take up dancing because I love music and dance; it helps to boost my mood.

Meet Our Staff Members

Name: Mariella Farrugia

Role: Centre Coordinator at Klabb 3-16 Marsascala San Gwakkinn



Name three things which you never leave the house without.

I would love to say that I never leave the house without my keys, however unfortunately it happens quite often! The three items that I really never forget behind are my mobile phone, my water bottle, and my purse. I am obsessed with handbags as well, so I would always put the mentioned things in a bag that would of course match my outfit.

If you could get rid of one month out of the year, which month would it be and why?

I would eliminate June! Although it is my younger son's birthday month, I feel that during this month I am pressured with my children's exams, ending another scholastic year and preparing for a new edition of Skolasajf. By the end of this month, I feel completely drained but satisfied as well for managing to get through it!

What's the funniest thing you've ever heard a child say?

Being a class teacher, I hear lots of things that parents would be mortified knowing that their children shared these 'family moments' in class. One episode that comes to mind happened during a science lesson. I was explaining to the children that it is very important not to waste water. Together we were discussing how we can reduce the waste of water at home. Children were mentioning that they close water taps while brushing their teeth or they do not wash themselves with running water. This child explained that her mother fills half the bath with warm water where all the siblings bathed in order not to waste any water. At that moment I didn't know what to say; whether to praise such a smart initiative or suggest otherwise!

What do you believe is your greatest virtue and how has it impacted your life?

My greatest virtue is that I try to put myself in everyone's shoes. I can understand children, their parents, and my colleagues, and I think that I offer my support in all situations encountered. It's not easy but I believe in treating others the same way I want them to treat me. Also, I always wish that my kids encounter people who will support them; hence why I try my best to support all children that I work with.

If you had to take up an activity, would it be dancing, kick-boxing, or meditation?

I would take up dancing! Who knows, perhaps at 34 years I might be able to learn how to master rhythm and follow a beat. Still a long way to go, but I'll try to aim for it! Meditation is something that interests me as well.

Work with FES

Do you like working with Children?

Have you ever heard of our Klabb 3-16 service?

Are you after flexible work arrangement schedule?

For any queries, call [22586830/35](tel:22586830), or write to hr.fes@gov.mt.
We will be very happy to assist you.



Centre Coordinator Klabb 3-16 (Part-time)

The Klabb 3-16 Centre Coordinator is responsible for the running of the Klabb 3-16 centre in term of operation and implementation of the programme of activities. The Centre Coordinator has to ensure the safety and well-being of children and staff, while overseeing the staff's performance and accountability of the centre.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Tutors Klabb 3-16 (Part-time)

The role of Homework tutors is to primarily guide students complete Homework assignments to the best of their abilities. Homework tutors will need to help students in improving their writing and numerical skills.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Playworkers Klabb 3-16 (Part-time)

A Playworker's role is to support and assist in the implementation of the Klabb 3-16 programme by working directly with children during the scholastic term and scholastic holidays. Playworkers are also responsible for ensuring the safety of the children at the centre as well as maintaining positive relationships with service users.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Child Support Workers Klabb 3-16 (Part-time)

The role of a Child Support Worker is to provide learning and personal support to the student entrusted in his/her respective care. This involves adapting a variety of appropriate play opportunities and activities for the student, taking into consideration the children's needs, difficulties and cultural backgrounds.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Zentrum Business Centre

Level 1, Mdina Road

Qormi

Opening hours: 8.00am - 3.15pm



[@FoundationforEducational Services](#)

To remove your name from our mailing list, or for any questions and comments, please [click here](#)

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