

# The Power of Relationship

## Developing relational competences in pedagogical relations

As professionals and practitioners with many years of experience in the field of preschool education in Serbia, we have recognized the increasing need of educators and professional associates to systematically describe and circulate processes in interpersonal relationships through which they work together with children, parents and colleagues during their work. The program we created corresponds to the need for the cultivation and promotion of socio-emotional competencies of preschool teachers, through the concept of relational competences, as suggested by Juul and Jensen.

Program points to the importance of developing relational competences for educators and other professionals who works in preschool facilities. Many of them already recognize importance of developing strong relationships, importance of improving and strengthening the quality of relationships with a child, colleague or parent. In other words, in order to achieve their professional goals, educators ought to develop relational competencies.

Our target group were preschool educators and professionals working in preschool facilities

### **Program Objectives:**

1. Supporting professional development through acquiring knowledge and developing competencies that are crucial in building relationships in their professional settings.
2. Strengthening participants' capacity to reflect professional experience through supervision.

The program was conceived as a series of four-month modules lasting three hours. During the duration of the module participants were introduced, through lectures, dialog and workshops, with the basic concepts of relational competence. Module realization was planned for the first half of October, November, December and February od 2018.

The modules are followed by a two-hour supervision (follow up) which is designed to support participants in the integration and application of acquired knowledge. In this way, participants were given the opportunity to recognize or try out some of their learned content in their professional practice and to reflect on it.

Program was held in three cities in Serbia that has been chosen for their tradition of fostering the value of multiculturalism and multi-ethnicity.

We have established cooperation with three preschools:

1. "Maštolend", Novi Sad;
2. "Včielka", Bački Petrovac and
3. "Labud Pejović", Bečej.