

INTRODUCTION

'Optical illusions' is a CLIL project designed to be developed with children in the Art class in the third cycle of Primary Education. It can be carried out with both 5th and 6th levels. It encompasses content and aims from the current Catalan curriculum, and also develops learners' skills towards achieving some of the core competences such as the use of techniques and resources of different artistic languages.

As the project title hints, children will explore the fascinating world of optical illusions, taking a journey led by three of the greatest guides they could ever have: Giuseppe Arcimboldo, Salvador Dalí and M.C. Escher. With these artists, children will find out what optical illusions are, through looking at their lives and work. Ultimately, children will create their own optical illusions, becoming art magicians.

I consider that looking at artists and their work is extremely important in order to introduce content and activities, since I firmly believe that the Art class cannot only consist of practical activity. It has to encourage the development of their love for Art.

The project is divided into three units: one for each artist. In each unit, children come into contact with different techniques, such as the use of charcoal, wax crayons, drawing of light and shadow or collage. Children play the leading role when doing most tasks: they learn while creating and manipulating. Collaborative work also plays an important role in most of the activities as children will enrich their communicative skills in the target language when they need to agree and work together. Moreover, in some lessons there are exercises planned to develop children's IT skills.

I feel strongly that Art is a great subject to develop in a CLIL project since it is closely linked with senses, imagination, and creativity. Besides, most children take delight in doing art activities and clearly, anything children create can be considered as Art, since its nature is not visible to the eye but to the senses and the feelings.

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Kay Bentley for all the encouragement given, all her support, her professionalism and her ideas when I was stuck, and for her unconditional dedication. This project is as hers as well as mine. Her passion for teaching has inspired me to seek and cultivate the same passion not only as a teacher but also in my life, trying to become a better teacher and a better person.

To Carole Robinson, for her support and help with language. To Jo Stirling, for her great mood and positive attitude! And to Marek for being always there with a helping hand. Thank you so much!

To all my colleagues. Thanks for all the moments shared, the music, laughs and tears. For your inspiration and good ideas for my project, and for being an ear when I needed it. For all the hugs, thanks a lot!

To Joan Carles, for inspiring me and encouraging me to do it. You were right, it has been a present in my life.

And finally, I must thank *El Departament d'Educació* for giving me the chance to attend this 10-week course with such great professionals.