

Fostering parental engagement in your school

Anna Zoakou

Nikos Zygouritsas

RnD Department, Ellinogermaniki Agogi

Thematic axes of the presentation

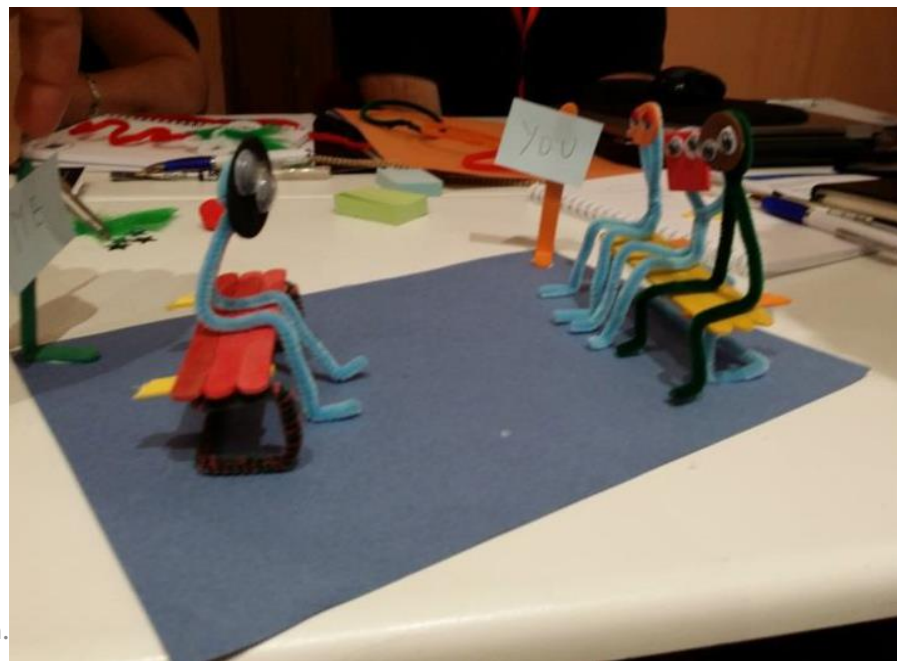
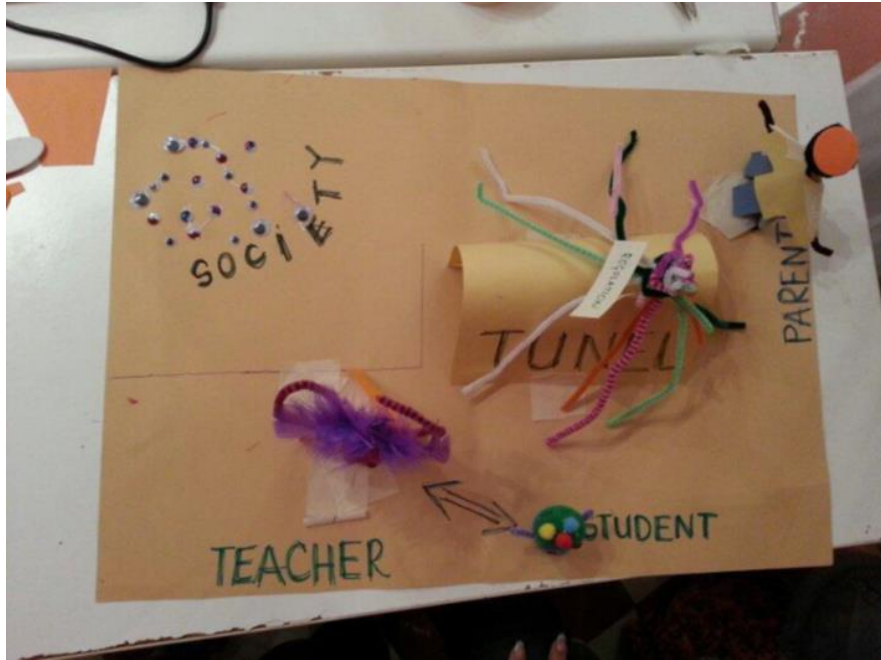
- ▶ Parental Participation; reflections and discussion
 - ▶ J. Epstein Model
- ▶ Working towards change
- ▶ Understanding & Maximizing Impact

Note: the workflow and the content of the presentation is an adapted and abridged version of the E-STEP & Open School Doors project training modules available at <http://www.estep-project.eu> & <http://openschooldoors.westgate.gr/>

Parental Participation; reflections and discussion

Reflections and Discussions

Tell us a story of parental engagement via a manufacture
Estimated time 30 minutes
(20mins preparation, 10mins presentation).



Parental
Participation

Collaboration
Parents' school

Parental
Engagement

- What these terms mean for you?
- How they are applied to your school?
- Similarities and differences
- Discussion and exchange of opinions
- Note keywords for each term

Parental
Participation

Collaboration
Parents' school

Parental
Engagement

Keywords	Keywords	Keywords

What is parental engagement? Discussion

- ▶ Parent engagement refers to all activities that parents do to help their children succeed in school and life.
- ▶ It includes everything from making sure they are prepared to go to school every day to attending parent meetings and conferences, to volunteering their time and talents to the school and their child's classroom and to the importance and value of they place on education.
- ▶ Give your own definition: what is the current situation in your country?

6 types of involvement from J. Epstein

- ▶ **PARENTING:** Assist families with parenting and child-rearing skills, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions that support children as students at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families.
- ▶ **COMMUNICATING:** Communicate with families about school programs and student progress through effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications.
- ▶ **VOLUNTEERING:** Improve recruitment, training, work, and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audiences at the school or in other locations to support students and school programs.
- ▶ **LEARNING AT HOME:** Involve families with their children in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum-linked activities and decisions.
- ▶ **DECISION MAKING:** Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy through PTA/PTO, school councils, committees, and other parent organizations.
- ▶ **COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY:** Coordinate resources and services for families, students, and the school with businesses, agencies, and other groups, and provide services to the community.

An elaborated analysis of the framework, the opportunities and challenges is available [here](#)

Which type of these
are applied to your
school at the moment?

Which are the
obstacles and
restrictions to these
types of parental
engagement?

Working towards change

Open Schools for Open Societies, Summer School, 01-07 July 2018, Marathon.

Planning and implementing context specific parental engagement

- ▶ Reviewing existing school development processes and understanding how this work will complement.
- ▶ Key questions:
 - ▶ How does my school develop?
 - ▶ What existing cycles and processes could this work fit in to?
- ▶ Identifying actions for change
- ▶ Identifying stake-holders.
- ▶ Key questions:
 - ▶ Who needs to be involved in the process? How? and why?

Post it

- ▶ Write down notes about your ideas and stick them to the clipboard



Building Stories of Success

- ▶ What do you need for your school in order to build a successful activity involving parents?
 - ▶ List your priorities
 1.
 2.
 3.
 4.

Strategy

- ▶ Which is the best strategy for your school based on your priorities?
- ▶ How will be parents get involved?
- ▶ How will social networking help your strategy?
- ▶ Set milestones
- ▶ How would be your school after that?
- ▶ How do you believe will be your school after 3 years from now by engaging parents?

Designing and planning change

- ▶ Key actions
- ▶ Deadlines and Milestones
- ▶ Identification of resources and independencies
- ▶ Clarification of roles and responsibilities

Understanding & Maximizing Impact

Understanding outcomes, impact and influence

- ▶ Which is the desirable impact of an activity engaging parents in your school?
- ▶ How could you extend this activity beyond the school boundaries?
- ▶ Define from the beginning qualitative and quantitative metrics
- ▶ Define when your activity will be successful

Discussions & Next steps

For more information you may visit <http://www.estep-project.eu> & <http://openschooldoors.westgate.gr/>

Anna Zoakou azoakou@ea.gr

Nikos Zygouritsas zygouritsas@ea.gr