



ExperieN^{ces}otes 3

Recycling & Upcycling of Materials / Objects



The common points of both projects presented in this issue of ExperieN^{ces}otes are:

- ✓ Recycling & upcycling or otherwise reuse of materials / objects that would be thrown in the garbage
- ✓ Stimulating imagination, creativity and innovation of handmade objects
- ✓ Usefulness of newly created products for a good cause
- ✓ Educational or teaching purposes, as there is an embedded value and educational experience in every product

Instead of buying a new toy or other product in the store, we make them ourselves by reusing materials and objects that are already around the household. We save money, do not pollute the environment with additional packaging, we are surrounded with good company, stimulate creativity and follow the recommended guidelines of environmental sustainability in personal practice of SSIO Slovenia.

Project: Experience Board

The project called Experience Board is a toy for children aged 2-6 years (even older). It is a learning board where children can safely practice handling appliances, switches, wires, levers, covers, etc. throughout the game. The Experience Board is made entirely of waste materials and broken parts of objects. The shape of the learning board was created spontaneously without any plan. It was made in a hobby workshop in January 2021. Commonly found home tools such as a saw, drill, sandpaper, screwdrivers, meter, etc. were used.

The Experience Board is made of three used pieces of chipboard, two boxes full of home-collected waste material and parts of objects and wood screws.



Source: Author of the toy

Work process:

1. Collect the necessary material
2. Join two white chipboards into a corner frame
3. Arrange different parts for the game on the boards so that there is enough space for fingers in between
4. Attach parts to both plates, drilling holes and connections, wires, channels
5. Attach the upper connecting plate
6. Make inscriptions: Excavator, Power plant
7. Test the product with children



EXPERIENCE BOARD



Source: Author of the toy

Children love to play with very interesting home-made toys. The Experience Board simulates the driving of an excavator and a control panel in a power plant. Over and over again, children will discover what else can be connected, plugged in, how to remove a panel component, and so on. Sometimes a part on the Experience Board breaks down. This is an opportunity for children to learn how to fix the breakdown. The Experience Board is made for experimentation and play. It allows children to discover connections, learn, practice handywork, develop imagination, have fun and socialize.

Project: Pipilika – Vehicle Caterpillar

Pipilika is a children's adventure vehicle in the shape of a caterpillar. It was made for the PIKA festival in Velenje. It was a challenge. The vehicle had to be interesting, unique, safe, instructive and made as much as possible of used / waste materials.

The basis for the production of the vehicle was a used children's tractor with pedals and a trailer, as well as a large used barrel. The following materials were also needed: sheet of metal, OSB boards, chipboard, planks, styrofoam, used fabric, used flower pot, scrap metal pipes and slats, garden cart chassis, strong adhesive tape, nails, screws, paints and ribbed pipes. The production of the toy took place throughout the summer of 2019 (about 3 months). It was made in an at-home hobby workshop. The help of a welder who welded some metal parts was also needed.



Source: Author of the toy

Work process:

1. Larger wooden parts were first drawn on cardboard and then transferred to wooden boards;
2. It was very difficult to attach a large blue barrel to the chassis to keep the structure solid
3. "Co-workers" were children from the street and at home, who were a source of information about the necessary vehicle functions
4. Besides interesting functionalities, the safety of children was also important, that they would not be injured while driving the vehicles
5. The completion of production was the painting of vehicles with attractive colours for children and the use of ribbed tubes, which give the vehicles a uniform and imaginative look
6. Testing the product with children.

In the process of thinking, creating, constructing, manufacturing and changing the product, three vehicles were made that can be connected together in a caterpillar vehicle called Pipilika.

Each vehicle has a different way of moving. One vehicle has pedals to drive and steer, another vehicle requires a child to push it with his feet or is pulled by a parent (the special feature of this is that it can rotate in place like a spinning top), the third vehicle is a barrel-cart for 2 small children which can be pulled by a third child. The children are eagerly exploring what all can be done with them.

PIPILIKA



Source: Author of the toy

The childlike joy, enthusiasm and the glow in their eyes were a reward for the time and effort invested.

Do not waste natural resources. Place the ceiling on desires and be happy.

Learn from nature, where nothing is wasted.

Let your imagination run wild!

