

Publishing house “Šviesa” will help teachers to improve abilities of autistic children

A project “Application of new methods in improving musical abilities of autistic children” (Nr. EEE-LT08-ŠMM-01-K-02-037) that has been created by the publishing house “Šviesa”, is one of the 11 projects that has won a contest of project financing in the second calling of 2009–2014 European Economic Area financial mechanism program LT08 “EEA scholarship programme”. The aim of this project is to improve musical abilities of autistic pupils by applying new teaching methods and raising teachers’ qualification.

According to Jurgita Nacevičienė, a director of the publishing house “Šviesa”, this project primarily focuses on the people, who take care of children that suffer from the autism spectrum disorders. These are music teachers, special and social educators, as well as other educational workers.

“This project will concentrate attention of a focus group on the methods of training those kids musically. While implementing this project, we will be inviting teachers to share their positive experience on children’s musical education, make them familiar with methodical innovations in this area, as well as encourage educators to use these innovations. We are hopeful that by working on raising qualification of educators, indirectly we will also help children suffering from the autism spectrum disorders to reveal their musical abilities and create more possibilities of communication through music,” says J. Nacevičienė.

Implementation of the project will primarily include reviewing current situation of musical education of children that suffer from the autism spectrum disorders, preparing a review on international research achievements, analyzing them and then organizing the meetings with music teachers that work with autistic children. They will receive encouragement to share their positive work experience. Their experiences will be analyzed, improved, generalized and then, based on this information, methodical recommendations on musical training will be prepared.

Since one of the aims is to describe methods of musical training for children that suffer from autism spectrum disorders and to encourage teachers to apply them, a guide of good practice in musical training will be prepared and published, new teaching methods will be presented in events, conferences, scientific publications and in a website online.

The last stage of the project will include preparing a program for raising educators’ qualification and giving teachings that will be based on the newest scientific research and the good practice of music experts on working with children suffering from the autism spectrum disorders.
