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May 28th world play day activities in Turkey since 2010

İşik Kamaraj

“Assist. Prof. Marmara University, Faculty of Atatürk Education, 34722, “Istanbul”, Turkey

Abstract

The idea of “World Play Day” came out first in the meeting of 8th International Toy Library Association (ITALA) in Tokyo in 1999 and today and every year, it is celebrated by various countries all around the world in May 28th. World Play Day activities have been celebrated in Turkey since 2010. The aim of this research is to explain activities World Play Day in Turkey since 2010. For examples: 1.Conference, Panel, Symposium about World Play Day, 2. Parade with theme 3.World Play Day Message between 2010-2012, 4. Playing in play fields.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The idea of “World Play Day” came out first in the meeting (8th International Toy Library Conference-Japan) of International Toy Library Association (ITALA) in Tokyo in 1999 and today and every year, it is celebrated by various countries all around the world in May 28th. The mother and the creator/founder of the idea of “World Play Day” is Dr. Freda Kim from South Korea. Also, International Toy Library Association (ITALA) asks United Nations for this day as being a formal “International World Play Day”. Since 1999, it has been expressed that about 30 countries who have toy libraries is are celebrating “World Play Day” (http://www.docstoc.com/docs/19839442/world-play-day-concept), Today, and through the entire week, playing activities are being done in various countries. Everybody including the children, the young, the parents, grandparents, the teachers, the disabled and all the people from all ages can join these activities.

Dr. Freda Kim writes a “World Play Day Message” and sends it to all countries who celebrate this day. “World Play Day Song” is also written by Dr. Freda Kim to make it sung today (http://www.itla-toylibraries.org/pages/world_play_day/).

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Corresponding author. İşik Kamaraj Tel.: +90 216 336 36 86; fax: +90 216 338 80 60
E-mail address: kamaraj@marmara.edu.tr
1.1. The importance and meaning of “world play day” activity for Turkey

1.1.1. To support the execution of article 31(child rights contract) as marmara university

Article 31:

1. Member Countries give the right to the child to rest, spend spare time, play and do activities suitable to his/her age and join freely the cultural and art life.

2. Member Countries know the right of the child to join fully the cultural and art life and promote the suitable and equal opportunities on about art and culture to make them spend spare time and rest. http://www.istantbabei.org.tr/icerik/cocuk-haklari-beyannamesi/

To support as Marmara University and enable the children to join this activities for the execution of Article 31 in Child Rights Contract which Turkey also signed and accepted in 1989 is very important on preparing activities suitable to the children’s ages and giving them the right to join freely to this activities (Kamaraj, 2012a).

1.1.2. To support the progress of being a “child-friendly” university internationally of marmara university

It is very important to discuss “the importance of playing” in academic meetings (panel, conference etc.) in order to promote children to join democratically to “World Play Day”, to use our sources for children as Marmara University, Kadıköy Municipality, International Child Centers, Unesco and other universities, to work in collaborative Project with national or international participants (Kamaraj, 2012a).

1.1.3. To provide the prospective teachers with play culture

This activity in Marmara University in which being just a participant is important as well as being an active participant gives the prospective teachers the responsibility to live and celebrate it with their own students in their own institution and to prepare it. It is thought that this activity has a big role in creating “the play culture” for prospective teachers. However, play culture can be part of our life only if actively involved (Kamaraj, 2012a).

1.1.4. To celebrate it every year by traditionalizing it in marmara university

World Play Day is celebrated all over the world in May 28th. First time in Turkey in Marmara University, Assist. Prof. Dr. Isik Kamaraj as the head of it, this activity has been celebrated since 2010 and being celebrated for 3 years to make it traditionalized every year by adding new activities. In 2010, the activity was 1-day-long but in the following years, it became 2-day-long. World Play Day Celebration Activity was starting always academic activity: 1. Conference, Symposium, Panel about World Play Day”, 2. Parade with theme, 3. World Play Day Message, 4. World Play Day Card, 4. Playing in play fields, 5. Closing ceremony (Kamaraj, 2012a).

1.1.5. To raise awareness in the community with world play day theme headlines decided every year

In World Play Day, a new theme is determined every year. The theme is decided considering the researches done in Turkey and all over the world and the reports from various institutions and establishments. (E.g. IPA, ICCP). The aim is to focus on this concepts and raise the communal awareness. For the first year (2010), the theme is “We walk to play”, second year (2011) “Our traditional plays and toys and the third year (2012) “outdoor plays and play grounds” (Kamaraj, 2012a).
1.1.6. Celebrating world play day with large masses to spread it to whole city (İstanbul) and Turkey.

Though the activity of World Play Day is started in Marmara University, it can be celebrated with the large masses, too. For example, students from other campuses can join the celebrations. Also, schools (pre-school and elementary schools, high schools, vocational schools students, teachers and the parents) can join Marmara University activities or make their own activity for this day. Again the other campuses can celebrate this day in their own area. Children, their teachers and their parents from special education centers can join. Toy Museums may prepare “theme trips” to their visitors. It can also be celebrated in Toy Libraries participated by the children and their parents. Local government can prepare play fields in squares and seaside to get the attention of every part of the community (Kamaraj, 2012a).

1.1.7. To foster international institutions and establishments to celebrate this day

Turkey who is among the countries signing the Child Rights Contract in 1989 is responsible to fulfil the he responsibility of this contract. If article 31 which is in Child Rights Contract is adopted and celebrated in various activities (panel, conference, exhibits, workshops) by Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Social Services and Child Protection Institution, Unicef, Unesco, education faculties of universities, toy libraries, child libraries, local governments, non-governmental organizations, Turkey will achieve its own legitimate responsibility (Kamaraj, 2012a).

1.1.8. To make Turkey be one of the countries celebrating this day internationally

Dr. Freda Kim, the mother of idea of World Play Day said in Singapore on 28 May 2009, in her speech, “World Play Day Forum”, today is being celebrated in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, England and USA (Kim, 2009). Turkey’s being among the countries celebrating this day has a very big role on this activity being celebrated internationally (Kamaraj, 2012a).

1.1.9. To foster the celebration of “national play day”.

World Play Day activity is an international activity celebrated in various countries but “National Play Day Activity” can also be arranged. Each city can organize celebration locally. Toys from every city’s history can be played with the participation of children, the parents and educators in squares and outdoor. By this way, we can re-learn our own culture with our own plays and we maintain our own culture with living and making it lived (Kamaraj, 2012a).

2. The 1st world play day (wpd) in Turkey, 28th may 2010

The First World Play Day was celebrated at Marmara University, Atatürk Education Faculty Early Childhood Education Department in Istanbul/Turkey on 28 May 2010. World Play Day activities has gone all day. Firstly Dr. Isik Kamaraj was made “World Play Day Speech” to early childhood education department university students and listened to the World Play Day song. The Celebration of The First World Play Day in Turkey: Theme was “We walk to play”, 1. Conference “I. World Play Day”, 2. Parade with theme, “We walk to play”, 3. World Play Day Message-2010, 4. Playing in play fields, 5. Closing ceremony.

Then, we had a “toy parade” participating with 19 early childhood education department university students and the accompany of preschool educationist my twin sister. We had 43 pupils as voluntary for World Play Day events. Moreover, our art department university students made a poster: “We are walking for play” and a pamphlet to hand out during the toy parade. I put on a Snow White costume for the parade. My students brought toys such as Eyüp toys (Turkish traditional toys), balls, and dominoes. The parade visited the faculty
dean and deputees also university rector building. My students demonstrated how to play with the toys during the visits. We presented our faculty dean and deputees with gifts of toys. I asked them which were their best toys and games when they were children. In the afternoon, we decorated the garden with balloons and red paper heart with the help of students. My students showed games to other students in the afternoon. They showed traditional Turkish games such as handkerchief catch, corner catch, istop game, Eyüp toys, rope and games found all over the world such as ludo, jenga, dominos, puzzles, scrabble, blocks etc. Our students had a t-shirt done to put on that day. We gave to students a participation certificate. The day was joyful, enthusiastic, exciting and happy for all participants, because, this is the first celebration in our country (Kamaraj, 2010, p. 13).

3. The 2nd world play day (wpd) in Turkey, 25th-26th of may 2011


Firstly, we made a meeting with two groups of my university students (Both Early Childhood Education Department and Special Needs of Children’s Department) at the beginning of the term. Meanwhile, one of my colleagues in early childhood department was preparing “The Turkish Traditional Eyüp Toys” with participation of all students in WPD. My other colleague was preparing “Traditional Games” with the same department. And another colleague of mine from the art faculty was preparing “statue of traditional toy which is name Cambaz”. The other lecturer made “World Play Day Pamplet”. We wrote “The message of WPD in 2011” to deliver to the students (Kamaraj, 2011a, p.10; Kamaraj, 2011b).

We prepared WPD Panel which is name “traditional games and toys” in the morning May of 26, 2011. Four colleagues made presentations about the importance of “Traditional Toys and Games” in WPD Panel. The names of our presentations were “The Importance of World Play Day for Turkey”, “Traditional Games in World Play Day”, “Traditional Toys in World Play Day” and “The Effect to Child Culture of The World Play Day”. In the afternoon, we made “Eyüp Toy’s Parade” with the participation of Early Childhood Department Students and Special Needs of Children Department students as every year in our university campus. We had 23 pupils as voluntary for World Play Day events. All students said “tongue twister” loudly during traditional toys parade. All of my students dressed a special t-shirt which was prepared for that day. The students separated into five groups to walk for toy parade. Two groups carried statue during toy parade. Also, all students carried with by yourself made Eyüp toys. After, we went on celebrating the day with students. We prepared “play corners” about Turkish traditional games in the garden. The university students participated to play with World Play Day. The leader students of groups showed other students “how to play these traditional games”. Then, we asked for write of their feelings from participating students on paper red heart. The participants wrote for example: “The World Play Week, himm reminded me my childhood and I felt so happy. Jumping rope, dominoes to bring us comfort and joy”, “I am so delight and also I am looking forward this day”, “Super”, “After seventeen years, you reminded me my childhood “I went back to my childhood”. In the afternoon, we made closing ceremony with the participants from our department. We gave certificate of attendance to students and one candy on 26 May as a gift (Kamaraj, 2011a, p.10; Kamaraj, 2011b).

4. The 3th world play day (wpd) in Turkey, 17th-18th of may 2012

We celebrated WPD, 17th-18th of May, for two days at Marmara University/Istanbul/Turkey. Our main topic was “Outdoor Play and Outdoor Playground” in 2012 about WPD. We celebrated the day based on

Firstly, we made a meeting with two groups of my university students (both Early Childhood Education Department and Special Needs of Children’s Department) at the beginning of the term. Every student groups was prepared “outdoor play area” and also their “play materials” to use that day. We had 41 pupils as voluntary for World Play Day events. Meanwhile, one of my colleagues in art department made “The Third World Play Day Pamplet”. We wrote “The message of WPD in 2012” to deliver to the students in our campus. We prepared WPD Symposium which was name “Outdoor Play and Outdoor Playground” May of 17th, 2012. After the symposium one of my colleagues and his students from art department was given concert which is name “Toy Symphony” prepared by made Leopold Mozart. All audience was affected that presented works. The next day, we started “our traditional parade” with the participation of Early Childhood Department students and Special Needs of Children Department students as every year in our university campus. All of my students dressed a special t-shirt which was prepared for that day. The students separated into nine groups to walk for toy parade. Every group carried with by you made “outdoor play materials” during toy parade. All students said “tongue twister” loudly during traditional toys parade. After parade, we came back to outdoor playgrounds. Our students prepared “outdoor playgrounds” in our department garden. We had seven outdoor play corner: 1. kite making, finger print, 2. swing, snake and latter, 3. ludo and peg top, 4. toys car and mangala game, 5. mikado sticks and, hula-hoop, 6. fishing, 7. target area, circle. At the 11.00, one of kindergarten schools with students came to participate our department garden to play at that day. There were almost 50 kindergarten children with their parents also three preschool teachers. University students who were preschool department also special needs of children’s department thought how to play this outdoor playground. It was so enjoyable day for children’s also their parents. Then, we asked for write of their feelings from participating childrens, parents and university students on red heart paper. The participants wrote for example: “We thank all people who organized this nice activity as Primary School, class ‘Bulutlar’. You have us to go back to our childhood. (As mothers)”, “The child slept in my heart awoke. Games, games and games… Also, that day one of my students department of special needs of children and I presented conference which was named “Froebel’s Gifts and Outdoor Play”. In the afternoon, we made closing ceremony with the participants from our department. We gave certificates of attendance to students and one cock candy on 18 May as a gift (Kamaraj, 2012b).

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