

4<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Petroupolis



“Ioannis Kapodistrias”

### **Gender equality in Nursery classrooms**

Pupils worked in groups to do research and collect information about Maria Montessori's life and work, and presented it in class. During the plenary discussion, they analyzed the following pedagogical principles: cooperation, communication, creativity, independence, limited freedom, respect for the natural psychological development of the child; they took an interest in integrating these principles into their daily lives inside and outside the classroom as well as in sharing responsibility with teachers for everything that concerns pupils both with respect to cognition and behavior.

Teachers encouraged pupils' personal involvement in the selection of the topics they wanted to do research on, the development of initiative as well as the solution to the problems presented.

Therefore, each group shared news, questions, and various issues. We asked questions. What will happen to all this? Would we like to learn more? Are we interested in doing a little research and presenting the findings? How is everything going to be organized though?

Let's take a look at what we would like to learn (I write the questions-queries on the board and then I copy them on a cardboard which will be helpful to us later during the presentations). We are usually divided into groups of 3-5 people. The groups hold discussions and share responsibilities: who is going to collect information, bring books, find pictures. Once everything is gathered, they share responsibilities once again: who is going to read, stick, cut, etc. It usually takes two weeks to complete the project and make the presentations. Pupils' research turns into presentations. Each group has its project on an A3 sized piece of paper.

Our duties, as the classroom responsibilities were called by pupils, were necessarily assigned in order to facilitate pupils' work in our collaborative classroom: I listen, I do not make fun of others, I am responsible, I take initiatives, thus I become independent and learn. I am

responsible for: opening and closing the windows, turning the lights on and off, cleaning the blackboard, handing out the notebooks, arranging the desks and chairs, etc.

**Moutsanidou Eleftheria**

**Siola Panagoula**