# ICT tools and Social media

## **Google Apps**

### **GOOGLE GMAIL**

Gmail can be used as a standalone tool to communicate with parents, forward information, ask personal questions, and provide feedback.

### **GOOGLE GROUPS**

An improved way to participate in discussions online.

### **GOOGLE DRIVE**

Google Drive can be used to store and safe information.

### **GOOGLE MEET**

With Google Meet, you can have video meetings with your parents, all together and separately.

### **GOOGLE DUO**

With Google Duo, you can enjoy high-quality video and voice calls on Android and iOS, the web, and more. You can have video calls with up to 32 people and invite them to join the group using the link.

#### **GOOGLE DOCS**

All documents in your e-mail in one place.

### **GOOGLE FORMS**

Various surveys for parents can be created.

### **GOOGLE PHOTOS**

Easily and simply create a collage, movie, animation from photos on your phone (tablet, computer). You can transfer photos (videos) to an archive, back up photos stored on your computer.

### GOOGLE CLASSROOM

A very easy tool to create a teaching/learning course, to provide teaching/learning material, assignments. Could be used in pre-school education, especially now that distance education is taking place.

#### GOOGLE CALENDAR

Can be used to mark important events so as not to be forgotten.

### Social media

### **Facebook and Messenger**

### Features and capabilities:

Can upload messages, files (PDF, MS Word), advertisements, photos, pictures, videos, live transmissions, creates surveys. An internal group can be created in which all this information is visible only to the members of the group. It is possible to send messages, photos, videos to specific individuals or groups of individuals.

#### Can be used for:

Provide information to all parents of the children's group about ongoing events, group activities, conduct surveys, provide general information on issues of parents' concerns, provide recommendations, share photos and videos about children's achievements, activities in the institution, hold remote meetings with parents of the whole group or individuals. It is possible to communicate with the parent of one child and provide information about the child, discuss problems, make recommendations. Parents can provide information (text, video or photos) on how the child is doing at home.

### Kindervibe

### https://www.kindervibe.com/

It is a real-time tutor-parent communication and updating tool that includes an internal messenger, photo-sharing, etc. The application also helps to track child skills development, tutors send reports to parents about the child's results. It was a completely new application developed specifically for kindergartens.

### Features and capabilities:

In the app, parents can write to kindergarten educators, the administration, or other parents in the group. In the "Gallery" section of the gadget, you can see daily and weekly photos that reflect the children's activities during the day. The app has the ability to write a comment about the photo. The messages section shows the teacher's letters, sorted by date. Teachers have the opportunity to attach PDF and MS Word attachments when sending a letter. The progress field provides a message about the child's age and developmental characteristics. It is also possible to view information specific to older or younger children. In the Progress column, child development is grouped into the following sectors: physical, cognitive, social, and emotional. About 15 development criteria are assigned to each developmental area. The child's progress is monitored and recorded in the way it helps parents and teachers communicate about children needs and goals. Understanding a child's age stages helps parents understand a child's needs and abilities. This opportunity of the program allows educators to share information, experiences, change parents' attitudes and beliefs. Information on the average attendance at the kindergarten is provided. The program automatically calculates the average amount of time a child spends in the field during the entire attendance period. The portion size of the food eaten is also estimated. This information allows to draw conclusions and make decisions related to the well-being of the individual child in the educational institution.

#### Can be used for:

To share information about the child, to follow the progress (to the parents, to the teachers), to plan the child's educational goals. Helps parents better understand what their child should be able to do according to their age.

The Kindervibe program is provided in languages (Lithuanian, Latvian, Polish, German, Norwegian, Russian and English). It helps non-native-speaking parents to better understand what is going on in the institution and how their child was doing.

### **Padlet**

### https://padlet.com/

It is a free online tool and app (iOS) that provides an online space for exchanging and publishing your ideas, thoughts, or other content. It is extremely easy to use: the teachers can share a link to the space they have created with the parents (via e-mail, QR code or otherwise), and the parents can publish their ideas, feedback, requests, etc. In the account teacher can not only create and edit new spaces, but also track parents activities, i. keep track of what they publish, edit, and so on. The most important innovation in Padlet is commenting and rating posts: hearts, stars, grades (on a selected scale) or like - dislike. You can enable these options in the settings section. In addition, you can change the address, format, image, background, and so on of the created space. You can export the created space in the desired format, such as pdf. If your space is public, you can enable its moderation, i.e. check other people's posts first and then publish them. Space can be shared in a variety of ways or embedded in other online content.

#### Can be used for:

a wide range of educational activities: short surveys, announcements, exchange of thoughts and ideas, reflection, discussions, sharing impressions, exchanging files, pictures or videos, homework, birthday greetings, thank you, presentation of learning, achievements or professional activities, etc. It is particularly suitable for international activities, virtual class exchanges or school collaborations.