

Intercultural Library ATL in Monthey

Sac d'histoires – The Story Rucksack

Origin

The *Story Rucksack* is a project of the intercultural library *A Tous Livres*. It began in 2013 as a pilot study at the schools in Monthey (VD). Students from three first-year primary school classes participated and were able to take the *Story Rucksack* home for a week at a time in rotation. At home they could read together with their parents picture books in French as well as in their mother tongue, play the associated games, listen to the CDs etc.

The project fitted perfectly with the social, cultural and linguistic realities in Monthey and the enthusiastic feedback from the teachers led the participating schools to extend the project to all first-year primary school classes (3H).

Aims

The project is about making a connection between the school and the family circle. The family circle is an indispensable partner in learning to read because it is important to read in the mother tongue as well as the local language. It also helps to recognize the abilities of parents better and promotes better integration of foreign-language students.

It also helps to make the school more accessible to parents and to improve the interactions between the school and the home. It shows the importance of every spoken language and encourages the learning of the school language; here French. Ultimately, it stimulates reading, which in this context is perceived as pleasure.

The content of the *Story Rucksack*

The focus is on bilingual books: school language / mother tongue. When choosing the books, attention is paid to the quality of the story and the illustrations. If it exists, the book can be bought bilingually, otherwise it can be translated and the translation is then pasted into the book with the original text.

Other elements of the *Story Rucksack* are a CD of the story in most of the languages spoken by the students, a toy (that is connected to the story and thus make the connection between home and school), games, a glossary as a language development activity, and a guestbook where every family can write something.

Implementation of the project

The *Story Rucksack* project is always explained to parents during a parents' evening at the beginning of the school year or during a specially organized meeting. The parents are invited to come to school to participate in the design of the project and the games that they make themselves. They can also supplement the audio recordings and help with the translations. For the production of the games they are provided with different materials. In addition, each mother or father can give free rein to his or her imagination and make suggestions, which are then implemented by the group. These joint activities also help create a social connection between the parent and the teacher, which in turn can benefit the children.

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More informations :
www.atouslivres.ch > animations > sacs d'histoires

