



Earthquakes in the kindergarten educate for risk mitigation

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"Earthquakes in the kindergarten educate for risk mitigation"

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In Portugal Education for risk is now recognized as a child training component and young learners should develop the right skills in the first years of life. School can have an important role in this process, as a privileged actor in the mobilization of every society, providing and promoting dynamic and educational practices aimed at the wider spectrum of education for citizenship, the adoption of safety behaviours, prevention and adequate management of risk.

The Group of Schools Adelaide Cabette in Odivelas is now a set of schools, from Kindergarten to Secondary.

Aiming at educating for risk prevention, we developed an experiment with a pre-school class directed to the seismic risk, which was extended to Earth Sciences because it is difficult to teach this topic to the youngest learners, either from Kindergarten or from Primary School, as they haven't learned enough about planet Earth (many don't even know that it is not flat but round like a ball).

This experiment involved a working project 1, which was initially developed in one of the classrooms, in kindergarten D. Dinis, and many questions have been asked by the students. The explanation for the students' questions gave origin to a set of experiences developed in the Secondary school. The same class concluded the project in their own classroom.

In this project the young learners could have contact with pre-school teachers, secondary and university researchers, thus promoting the sharing of different knowledge, including the scientific linked to the educational one.

We would like to share our poster summarizing our experience which we felt was not only a great challenge, but also a rewarding way to disseminate science to the youngest learners.

1. Keywords: natural catastrophe(s), accident(s), tsunami(s), sea, speed, wave, beach, planet Earth, plates, earthquake, shake, fire.