



Family's Home
Auchel
Region Nord-Pas-de Calais
Mining Sector

History

- Auchel: Northern part of France
- Mining region (strong engagement by the mining management: medicine, housing)
- High dependency on social benefits
- Social housing: 40 %



Project's history

- Last trimester 2008: Decision taken by the Secours Catholique PAS DE CALAIS to stop food parcels
- First trimester 2009: survey of the population's expectations to the presence of Secours Catholique

Results of the survey

- The average age of mothers having their first baby is between 16 and 19 years
- 85 % of the children have no extracurricular activities
- 76 % of the parents have no activities outside their house
- 27,5 % of the families wish to do activities with their children
- At the same time, the social services mark an increase in children's violence of 3 to 12 years old children

- Summer 2010 : organisation of family holidays
- 2010: Setting up of a social grocery store
- 2011: organised family holidays
- Summer 2012 : maintenance work in the centre situated in the city centre of Auchel together with the families

The Project

Main objective: Help parents and their children to rediscover the pleasure to live together

Second Objectives:

- Encourage the children
- Encourage the parents
- Help mothers to become women, to think about themselves, to have fun so that they like to go back to their homes and their children, help to manage the communication between children and parents in a peaceful but educative manner thanks to a certain distance.
- Allow everyone to express themselves freely about what they live to finally gain a certain objectiveness with regard to their life. They learn to analyse the malfunctions and they find themselves possibilities to change their way to behave.
- Learn how to live in a community (pedagogical methods: charter, accountability of every person, allow own initiatives...)
- Find benchmarks for family life
- Help women to find their place as mothers by defining role models
- Help fathers to find their place in their respective family

The workshops

- Monday afternoon: cooking workshop with limited budget
- Tuesday afternoon: parents support group
- Wednesday afternoon: parent-children activities
- Thursday afternoon: manual activities
- Friday afternoon: knitting, sewing

Cooking workshop



Support group

- The volunteers take account of the exchange with the families for programming the issues to be discussed
- The families are asked to address issues they wish to discuss
- The volunteers ask other volunteers or professionals to answer the families' questions or at least give them some elements of response



Approaches:

- The Back-to-school bonus
- The charter of community life
- The municipality elections and the European elections in march 2014
- Pleasures and difficulties of being parents

Issues to tackle by the families

- Energy efficiency
- Feeding of children
- Which place to take in society?
- Swimming excursion
- Relaxation
- Socio-aesthetics workshop
- Room for fathers
- Impact of wording
- The child as an entire human being
- Medico-educational institute

Parents-children workshop

- Children from 0 to 2 years
- Children from 2 to 4 years
- Children older than 5 years
- Participation of parents together with their children
- Manual activities
- Snack
- Cleaning up together



Results after 9 month's work

Good results:

- Real freedom of expression
- Mutual assistance of parents and children
- Mutual assistance of families with problems they all face
- Knowledge sharing
- Creation of friendships
- Revaluation of people
- View on professionals has changed: Families have developed self-esteem
- Development of confidence regarding their role as single-parent-families
- Some participants have rediscovered rules of how to life in a community (collective decision-making, wording, serve children before the adults, etc.)

Issues which need further regard:

- The integration of new participants
- The coordination of the different workshops
- Having at least three volunteers in each group
- The self-management of volunteers (being open)
- The training of volunteers (how to listen and to take on what has been said, ...)
- The importance of social networks (risk of gossip)
- Make sure that conflicts from outside of the family house stay outside
- Empowering people: the volunteers should not get involved in conflicts but invite people to solve their conflicts by only speaking directly to the involved people
- Different codes of communication (very aggressive language)
- Need to recall the rules of how to live together
- A family council every 2 months /general organisation of the house)

Our little gold nuggets

- One mother wishes to start a training (CAP early childhood) what convinced her 16 years old son to start a training in carpentry
- Aurore, mother of Peggy, 2 ½ years, and Lino, 3 ½ years, starts step by step to find emotional links to her children
- Helena, mother of 16 months old Lino et 4 months old Cyndie, slowly steps out of her depression which she got after Cyndie's birth because of her inability to organise herself
- 17 months old Jérôme puts on shoes every day now
- Sandrine accepted that her son at IME participates to a three days holiday trip with his class
- The women who thought about doing a stomach operation to loose weight registered at a local country dance club and encourage each other.
- A blog named "cooking workshop Auchel" has been created by the mothers