

## EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

the time we live in is extraordinary and very unusual. Most of us are at home, schools are closed. The current situation has affected all of us and it is not easy to deal with it. I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.



As a result we had to move all of our spring courses (Portugal, Sweden and the Czech Republic) to autumn dates, and we very much hope that the situation around the COVID-19 would allow us to run them. You can find new information on our website.

In this Newsfleet issue, we would like to offer you some interesting activities that you can do with your children or pupils also during stay-home regime or distance education. We will share more tips on our facebook page and you all are very welcome to share your experience and tip for interesting activities there. And I would like to add a tip for every-day well-being, like meeting in MELONA at our courses, arrange a home ritual which you repeat together every day. It could be a favourite board game, an interesting and interesting yesterday's experience, a new joke or anything else which suits to you and your family.

Wishing you all good health, understanding and patience and looking forward to meeting you soon „face-to-face“ during our courses.

Dr. Dusan Bartunek – CEO Outdoored.EU

## ACTIVITIES AND GAMES AT HOME

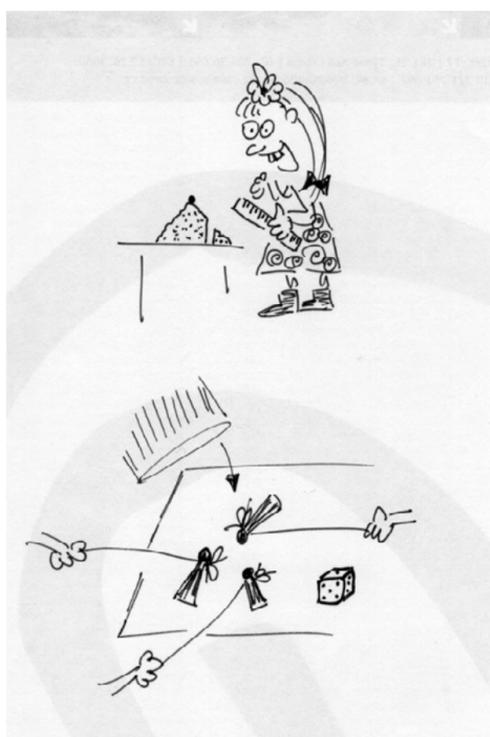
### Flour game

coordination, concentration, fun

**Materials needed:** 1 kg of flour, roller, bead (or hard candy)

The Flour Game is so much fun and is perfect for gatherings with a variety of different ages because it can be played by anyone from a pre-schooler up to great-grandparents. This game takes very little preparation and few supplies and can be played anywhere including outdoors.

Make a mound of a flower on the table and set a bead (or hard candy) on top of the mound. Players are standing around the table and cannot touch the table. Each player takes a turn cutting the flour with the roller not to allow the bead to fall. Players continue to take turns cutting the flour until the bead falls. The person that cuts the flour which causes the bead to fall must then retrieve it with his mouth.



### “Keep calm” game

patience, estimate, observation

**Materials needed:** tin (or cup), strings, pieces of wood or beads, dice

This game is played in group. Each player needs 1 string (max. 80 cm long) with a small piece of wood or bead attached to one end. All players sit around the table with their bead in the middle, holding onto the other end of the string. One person has a tin (or a cup) – we change this person regularly; everybody tries this role during the game.

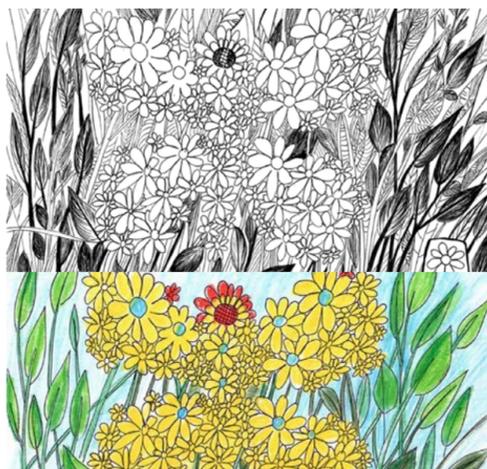
At the beginning of each round the leader of the game roll the dice. If there is an odd number, person with the tin tries to catch as many beads with the tin as possible while everyone with a bead pulls their string and bead away. If one's bead is caught, then one receives a penalty point.

If there is an even number, then the tin person can't capture any beads (could bluff not less than 15- 20cm above the table). If one pulls their bead away, then he/she receives a penalty point.

Instead of the rolling the dice leader could use a quiz, e.g. leader tell the name of an animal and players reaction depends on the fact if the animal is mammal or not, or if the animal has the legs or not etc.

### Coloring worksheets

You can try to offer your pupils work on some coloring worksheets which we share on our facebook page - and we will continue regularly every week. Children can then prepare similar worksheets on their own. Those on the picture are prepared by Zdenka Stefanidesova.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRITTA!

As you probably know Britta celebrated her special Birthday in February.

Dear Britta, we wish you all the best and well-being in all your life paths!! Beautiful minds inspire the others. Thank you.



## OUTDOORED COURSES AND COVID-19 UPDATES

Since our courses are based not only on an interesting and professional program, but mainly on meeting and sharing among teachers from different parts of the world, it is not possible to run our courses these months. Following the recent situation most countries implement strict restrictions and travelling was completely stopped. We believe to get back to our regular service soon. Even the Tokyo Olympics are postponed for a year.

The consequences of all these facts have also strong impact on our company Outdoored.eu.

**Therefore, we would like to kindly ask you to support us now with your patience and trust!**

**Considering all these facts we do not run any courses until 15<sup>th</sup> August.**

**We will be glad if you choose any of these options:**

**1) postpone your participation in the term which is already set for the second half of the year 2020** –we can help you to choose any of the courses you might be interested in. We keep reservation for the course in Sweden August 2020 and all the others announced for autumn 2020, but everything might change very quickly. We will follow the situation and will inform you all in advance about the current situation and changes.

**2) postpone your participation for 2021** - the authorities aim at school support is to finalize their pending mobilities. They already announced possibility of 12 months postponement, change from one course to another one is also possible. Please contact your NA to know what it means in financial terms. The EU commission has authorized NAs to act informing that “we are applying the maximum flexibility we can in the implementation of the program, within the limits of the applicable legal framework.”

Strategy and management for school development, Prague, Czech Republic  
**JULY 2020 TO DECEMBER 2020 or JULY 2021**

Taking groups out-of-doors, Portugal  
**MARCH 2020 to OCTOBER 2020 or MARCH 2021**

Nature as a fantastic classroom for learning, Sweden  
**MAY 2020 to AUGUST 2020 or MAY 2021**

If you need to find any other individual solution, need support with documents, confirmations or anything else do not hesitate to contact us any time.

We apologize for any inconvenience and hope that we all get over these challenging times soon.

## SELF – DIRECTED LEARNING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

Distance learning brings new challenges and could be sometimes exhausting for children, parents either teachers. On the other hand, it is an opportunity for everyone to try something new and look for a new ways nad tools that would be useful and enjoyable for everyone and fit to us and our children. Everybody lives and works under different conditions and would struggle with different tasks.

I would like to share with you one of an interesting experience from our school in the Czech Republic (children aged 6-15).

After a month of distance learning we decided to have a small „break“ in regular work. All classes had a week of self-directed learning.

I would recommend anybody to try it - it could be a refreshing change and relaxation for both students and teachers. It is also an opportunity to realize that learning is a process that takes place not only over school exercise books but in everyday life; for parents and teachers to discover (or just make sure) what our children are good at and what they enjoy.

What does week of self- directed learning mean?

Children were asked to think about what they would like to learn during the week, what they wanted to develop in, what they wanted to learn. Everyone could choose any topic or activity and share the result of his/her work at the end of the week- for example in the form of a photo or video in shared documents with his/her classmates.



And what was the result in the second grade (children aged 7-8 years) where I teach? At the end of the week we had a varied range of outcomes - as varied as different children are in one class. A birdhouse (including the plan, construction and hanging on a tree), a video with yoga warming up for classmates, a handmade teddy bear, a project day on Indians, a volcano project created in virtual reality, Easter apartment decoration, geocache-treasure hunt for schoolmates, handmade insect house and much more amazing outcomes. And we all believe that during the planning and work children developed many key competencies.

## LET'S GO OUT – NATURE GALLERY

Do you or your pupils have an opportunity to go out? Let's try some simple activities which could be offered also to your pupils and parents to spend time together in nature.

Prepare a frame (made of wood, sticks, paper, ...). First, we walk, engage being outdoor and observe, looking for an interesting place that nature has prepared for us... and frame it.

We can also prepare pictures using interesting natural materials, or use natural materials prepared at home (eg. colored rice). A then look for the name of your frame!!

Photos made by Zdenka Stefanidesova.



## MOTTO

„Education is a social process

Education is growth

Education is not a preparation for life

Education is life itself. “

John Dewey (1859-1952)

## OUR OFFER

If you would like to refresh activities and games you experienced with us - you can find most of them and many others in the book **GAMES IN NATURE**.

Most of the games involve minimal material requirements have very simple rules, understandable for children - but their potential impact and effectiveness are truly global, as experiential educators around the world have learned in the past decade.

**Games in Nature: An Innovative Approach to Outdoor and Environmental Activities for Young Children**

You can buy e-book - <http://a.co/d/7eOVS6W>