KIITOS OUR MASCOT

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Produced for the Erasmus + KA2 Strategic Partnership Program
ERASMUS PLUS KA2- N.º 2015-1-PT01-KA201-013122

This Project has been funded with the support of the European Commission.

This Publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained Therein.

©2018 KIITOS@21STCENTURY PRESCHOOLS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

LEADING TEAM

PONTE DE SOR MUNICIPALITY

LEAD EDITOR

SUSANA ESCULCAS

LIST OF TEAMS PEDAGOGICAL INVOLVED

Authors Collaborators

Children from Kindergartens of the Ponte de Sor School Grouping

Childhood Educators of the Ponte de Sor School Grouping

Teachers of English and Music of the Association of Parents and Guardians of Education of the Grouping of Schools of Ponte de Sor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

06

Introduction **07**

Kiitos and emotions **08**

Kiitos and 21st Century skills **08**

Kiitos and Values **09**

Kiitos Enhancer of interculturality **09**

10

How it came about **12**

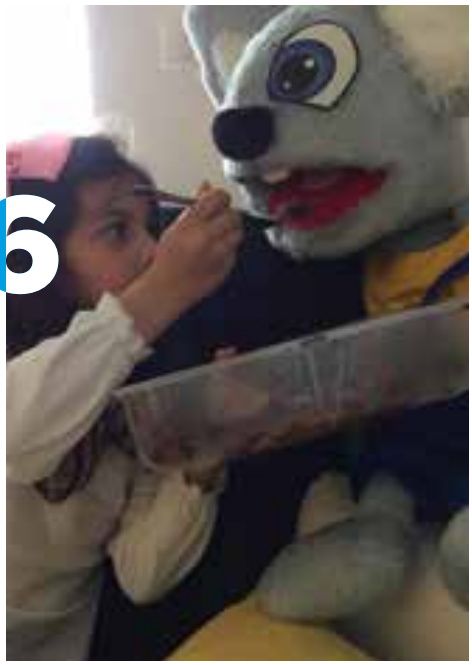
Adult mascot **12**

Small mascot **13**

Recommendations **14**

Suggestions **15**

16



What happened in our classrooms **17**

Kiitos Mascot Profile (adult version) **21**

Context of why he came to Ponte de Sor **21**

Learning characteristics **21**

Vocal characteristics **22**

Notes **23**

INTRODUCTION

Kiitos is the mascot for the Kiitos@21st Century Preschools project, a vehicle for English language and Music learning and, at the same time, a link between children, school and home. Kiitos becomes a child among children, providing confidence and a comfortable environment for child development. Children will appropriate of Kiitos in a free and personal way, integrating him each in their own way and according to their needs. Gradually children will see themselves in the Kiitos, making him an element of the group. From the moment Kiitos is part of a classroom he can help significantly with a wide variety of subjects:

1. Kiitos and emotions:
- Identify what you are feeling;
- Manage your emotions;
- Regulate behaviours.

2. Kiitos and 21st Century skills:
- Creativity;
- Collaboration;
- Communication;
- Critical thinking;
- Emotional and intercultural intelligence.

3. Kiitos and Values:
- Values;
- Rights;
- Duties.

4. Kiitos Enhancer of interculturality:
- Acceptance and respect of cultural differences;
- Widen cultural horizons;
- Universalize cultural differences by sharing them in the classroom and with the school community;
- Intercultural enhance, appreciate diversity.

1. KIITOS AND EMOTIONS

Promoting the development of emotions, values and attitudes is a sensitive area, especially with children of this age group. Kiitos can be an ally in this area, helping children to feel secure in adapting to the preschool environment, a securing element and facilitator of a relational environment. Children can use Kiitos to express their feelings and emotions, whether talking to the mascot or transferring their concerns to it:

"Can you tell Kiitos what you're feeling?"
"What made Kiitos feel that way?"
"Do you think Kiitos can tell us what happened?"
"Is Kiitos ok?"
"Do you know why Kiitos is sad/happy/angry/afraid?"

We can also have benefits in managing attitudes and behaviours if we rely on the help of Kiitos. By distancing oneself from a given situation, focusing on it or transposing it to the mascot, we can give the child the opportunity to better evaluate the situation, its causes, consequences, reflecting on the issue, promoting its resolution:

"What should Kiitos do in this situation?"
"How do you think Kiitos should feel?"

2. KIITOS AND 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Kiitos as a vehicle for other forms of art, beauty, nature. Difference is diversity and this is richness.
Problem solving:

"How can we solve this problem?"
"Is there another way of doing it?"
"Kiitos can you help us solve this problem?"
"Can you tell us what Kiitos said?"

KIITOS OUR MASCOT - ©2018 KIITOS@21STCENTURY PRESCHOOLS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

3. KIITOS AND VALUES:

The mascot can on a daily basis helps to improve behaviours, to instil the difference between right and wrong, to foster the need to listen to each other, to help each other. It can also act as the "voice of conscience", questioning why we do certain actions, what we might have done differently, how we can improve our attitudes..

4. KIITOS INTERCULTURALITY POTENTIATOR:

Talking about the origin of Kiitos will help to address the notion of different cultures and traditions. The mascot will help to create the idea that we are not the only beings in the world, that we are not alone, that there are other people/races and other cultures. Using Kiitos to search for these cultures and their traditions can foster children's idea of multiculturalism, but also want to know more and learn how to do so.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT

Kiitos @ 21stCenturyPreschools created the Kiitos mascot with the collaboration of the children and the different pedagogical teams. There is an adult sized mascot and there is another small sized mascot. The children identify them as being two different mascots although both are called Kiitos.

1. Adult mascot

The adult sized mascot comes primarily from school events such as the beginning of the school year, Carnival, Christmas, Children's Day and the end of the school year.

The mascot is still one of the actors in the videos produced, within the scope of the project, either to promote the project or to show the projects developed in the classroom. It is also defined that the adult Kiitos mascot will only have voice in the promotional videos; in situations of interaction with children (live) Kiitos can only use sign language (so it won't be confused with any person from the team).

2. Small mascot

The small mascot has its own identity created by the group of children in each room and is part of the life of this group, accompanying them in their daily lives.

In some classrooms, he is part of children's lives outside of school, with their families and their routines, experiences and traditions.

As a children's friend, Kiitos mascot has become another element of the classroom. One of the intentions was that all the children could take care of him. Another suggestion that the group of children presented was that Kiitos could go daily to their homes. Children are responsible for taking care of him, which often becomes a resource for dealing with several issues. Through the mascot we can talk about honesty, respect, companionship, courage, and even family social issues.

The mascot spends the day with the group and participates in school activities and at the end of the day goes home with one of the children. The next day the child reports the activities carried out with Kiitos, tells about the adventures lived and sometimes even brings their photographic record. The idea is that the family can be involved with the mascot and encourage the children to take care of him.

The affective bond is created at this time, since in daily care, children have some responsibilities: do not dirty, tear and/or mistreat Kiitos. This increases the bond of unity and friendship between children who have something in common: taking care of the mascot.

One of the great trumps of this routine is the involvement of all. Preschool teacher, teachers, children and families end up embarking on the adventure and imagination of making the mascot a member of the group. Taking Kiitos home allows the dialogue with the family about their experiences in the school, besides favouring the interaction between all.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All the commitment made with the group of children should also be assumed by the adults who work with them daily, preschool teacher, teachers, classroom assistant and other technicians. This way, the mascot is seen and respected by all in the same way..

KIITOS OUR MASCOT - ©2018 KIITOS@21STCENTURY PRESCHOOLS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SUGGESTIONS

One of the suggestions we propose is to register in a collective book, entitled "Our Adventures with Kiitos", the moments lived by the children with the mascot outside the school space.

Each child can use up to two paper sheets of the book to record what happened during the time that the mascot was at his/her home – what they did, what activities they participated in, places they might have visited – through photos, small reports or drawings...

Another suggestion is that, at the end of the school year, a photo exhibition could be held at the school, involving both the children and their families, as well as the entire surrounding community.

.

WHAT HAPPENED IN OUR CLASSROOMS

As mentioned previously, one of the activities developed included the participation of families taking Kiitos to each child's home.

In one of the preschool classrooms, as agreed when drafting the contract of use of the mascot, one of the rules was that Kiitos could never be left alone, as he is identified as one of the children of the group. Thus, one of the children took Kiitos home daily and became responsible for it when the school day ended. The following day, this child told his colleagues and preschool teacher about his adventures with Kiitos: what they taught him and what the family taught Kiitos. The photographic record was published on the facebook page of the classroom. Most parents tried to teach new words in English, through Kiitos, since he only speaks this language.

In another preschool classroom, Kiitos was always present in the daily activities of the classroom, in routines, in birthday celebrations, in games, in field trips and even in small outdoor exits.

KIITOS OUR MASCOT - ©2018 KIITOS@21STCENTURY PRESCHOOLS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Kiitos went home at the weekend, according to the children's presence list, that is, in alphabetical order. Kiitos left with the child on Friday, at the end of the day, and returned to the classroom on Monday morning. The child, along with his/her family, made a written and/or photographic record so, after the daily routine, the child reported his/her weekend with the mascot, in order to share with the other children and teachers their experiences.

KIITOS MASCOT PROFILE (adult version)

Personal Details:

Name: Kiitos

Mother's name: Kylie

Father's name: Dundee

Siblings: Mark e Melanie (they work in Australia)

Date of Birth: 20th November

Nationality: Australia / Melbourne

Favourite colour: yellow

Favourite number: 6 (number of letters of his name)

Pets: fish

Context of why he came to Ponte de Sor

Kiitos came to visit Ponte de Sor with friends who are living in Australia. He liked it so much that he decided to stay. He likes everything in Ponte de Sor, but what pleases him most is the food.

Lives in Ponte de Sor and goes to the primary school.
His family members stayed in Australia, but he has some cousins who wanted to come to Ponte de Sor (small mascots). He visits his parents by plane that his flight leaves our aerodrome.

He likes to play ball, go fishing, go to the park and visit friends.

He is very gentle, friendly, curious, restless, playful and attentive.

Student

He is a regular student, a leader. His vivacity gives him charisma. He is cheerful and jaunty.

Learning characteristics

Likes to speak and teach English words to friends. He likes to learn Portuguese. Likes to help and to collaborate in the proposed activities.

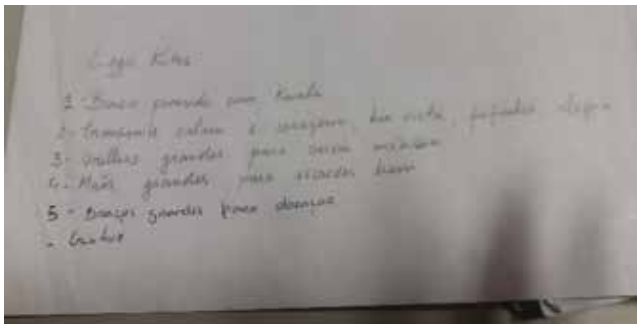
Vocal characteristics

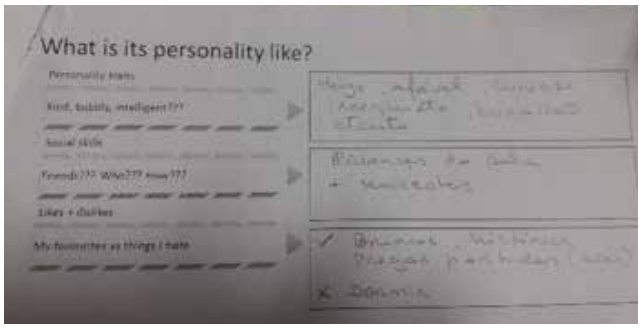
Likes saying the words “nice” and “yeah” (frequently used them).

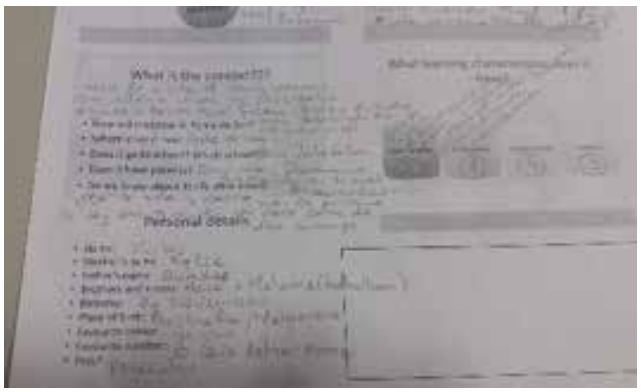
He has a naughty laugh.

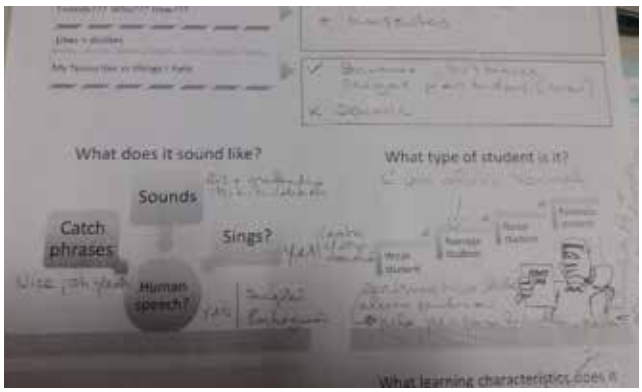
Sing in a normal voice.

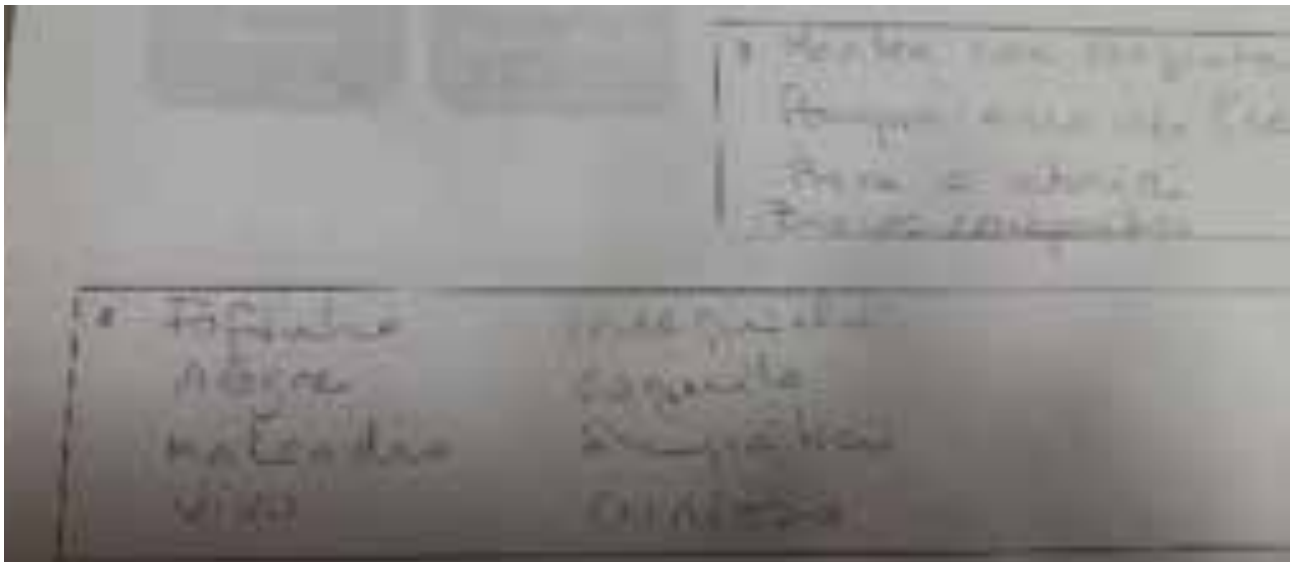
He speaks English and understands some Portuguese.











 KIITOS OUR MASCOT - ©2018 KIITOS@21STCENTURY PRESCHOOLS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

NOTES

COORDINATING ENTITY

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

©2018 Kiitos@21stcentury preschools.
This deliverable reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.