



Theme 3


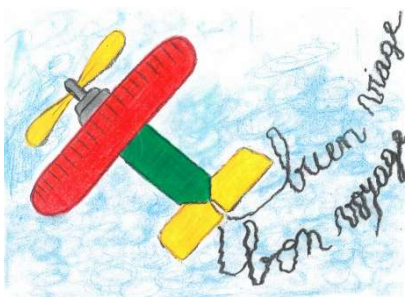
Elementary experience

This report relates the experience of a Portuguese elementary school which participated in the 2018-2019 Kamishibai Contest's first edition in Portugal: "From my window to the world", inspired by a quotation from Fernando Pessoa.

This year is the first in which this class takes part in the Plurilingual Kamishibai Contest, thus the children didn't know about the kamishibai technique.

The project was carried out from November 2018 to April 2019 and was addressed to children of various ages, between 6 to 10 years old.

This document reports the reflections of the two teachers who undertook the project, extracted from the 2019 logbooks.

Pedagogical Stakes	<p>The project "O mundo é a nossa casa" (The world is our home) fit into the program and was carried out around the topic of environmental protection, already addressed by both the English and class teacher. The project presented an opportunity to work on the topics of Portuguese, science and technology, arts education and English. Fourth year pupils created a story and chose as the protagonist a bird affected by pollution - just like the one they had seen flying around their school courtyard or spotted through the window of their classroom.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>
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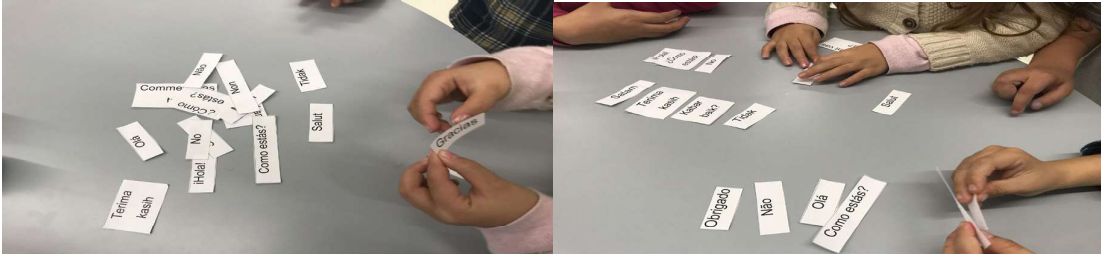
“It wasn’t always possible to carry out activities with the whole class. Divided into small groups, the children were assigned to various missions. Sometimes, decisions were taken in assembly and debated and voted on. To decide together upon a storyline makes it easier to carry out other tasks in groups: writing the text, sequencing the plot, defining the number of cards, illustrating, inserting languages.

Through this first collaborative work, children identify the key elements of the kamishibai creation - along with other important elements (parts of the story, words in other languages to be inserted) - and they organize the following steps by dividing the tasks according to each child’s capacities and preferences. Creating the kamishibai has also been a way to awaken children to citizenship and to stimulate argumentation and negotiation. “The pupils have developed written expression and creativity, and they have learned how to work together toward a common goal.” The use of the kamishibai puts the teacher in a neutral position. Although they can enliven debate, reformulate arguments or ask children to explain their ideas, it’s still up to the children to decide, to vote and to discuss their choices. The plurilingual kamishibai project seems to favor the “socialization” of writing, meaning that pupils collectively create the story to participate in the contest and to present it to the community - among others.”



Following the collective writing process, illustrations were created in groups of two, based on scientific drawings excerpted from an ornithological guide. The story’s protagonist travels around the world and speaks human languages, which helps him to communicate with all of them. To this end, pupils used expressions they encounter in everyday life through television or social media, family or friends living abroad - they also searched other languages on Internet.

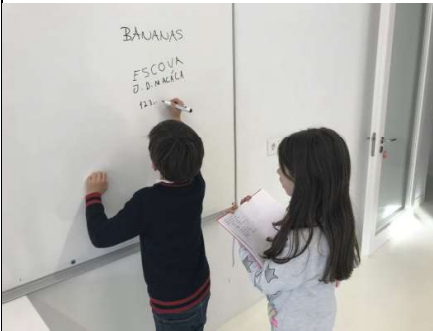
Children were involved in every step of the process (in big or smaller groups), except the crafting of the butai. The public presentation of the project happened during the school year closing night.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Consequences</p>	<p>“This project played an important role in pupils’ instruction. We noticed its impact on interdisciplinarity, motivation and teamwork, which also led to the development of various capacities, skills and problem-solving strategies such as creativity, critical thinking, focus, reading and writing, oral expression and illustration techniques, etc.”</p> <p>“This scheme is not only innovative - it’s also an ideal way to work on topics and on the contents of Portuguese as well as other foreign languages.”</p> 
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Difficulties Encountered</p>	<p>“There has been difficulty in linking the theme of the contest with the ideas brought up by the children.</p> <p>Since I wasn’t a main teacher to the children involved in the project, it was easier for me to manage their work. The obstacles I encountered: adjusting the project to make it centered on the children’s decision, added to my availability in time and function - and the lack of time to perfect the project.”</p>

Testimonies

"This project sparked interest among the children and made us realize their capacity to realize and concretize a multi-layered project.

The kamishibai technique us to gain knowledge in various fields and to share ideas and experience among several members of the educational community.



It is a multidisciplinary project that optimizes children's creativity while spreading awareness of the importance of linguistic and cultural diversity in a world as diversified as the one we live in. It is a very stimulating, educative and impelling project that enables work on various subjects adapted to the content of elementary school topics." (Class teacher)