



# Georgian Occupational Therapists Association

## Volunteering to Help Children having Learning Disability Cope with Educational Challenges

### **Children-Education-Volunteers**

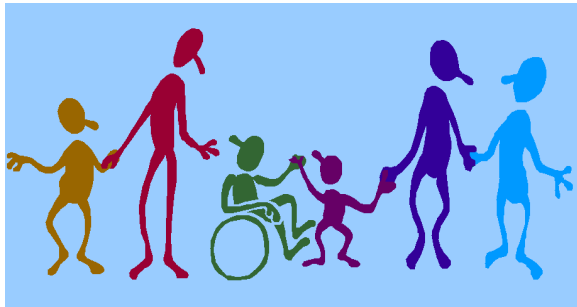
17th Meeting of ENOTHE,  
Lusia Oganezovi, Larisa Jalaghania



[dreamstime.com](http://dreamstime.com)



17th Meeting of ENOTHE, Lusia Oganezovi,  
Larisa Jalaghania



# Students' Project in Inclusion Education

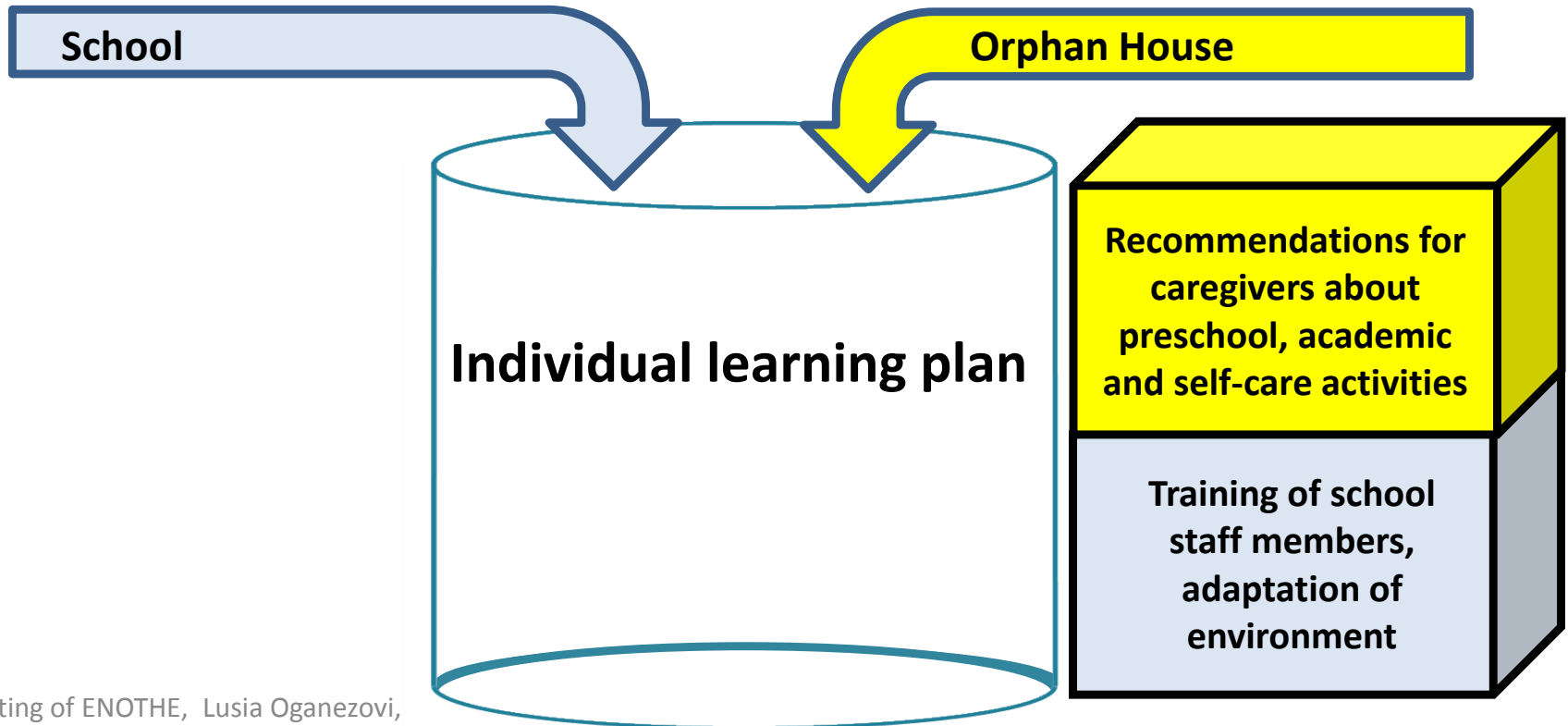
- Project's aim is to raise awareness of importance of volunteering, stimulate professionals and students to become active in future projects
- Practical application of professional competences with a multidisciplinary work, with elements of community-based work with school and Orphan House
- Demonstrates how the student's project is popularizing Occupational Therapy education and practice in Georgia

# Project goals

- Involve three children in classroom activities
- Involve caregivers and teachers in multidisciplinary team
- Involve occupational therapy and psychology students in assessing children's skills, adapting to the environment and creating an individual learning plan under professional supervision
- Ask students how volunteering provides them new skills, competences and employability
- Institution becomes model for inspiring like-type projects from other YPA members

# Responsibilities and Roles

- Ministry of Education- multi-disciplinary team ( O.T. psychologist and special teacher)
- Multi-disciplinary team of students



# Initial Assessment

- Children weren't participating in classroom activities.
- Three children cannot meet the curriculum's requirements
- Depending on caregivers during school
- Children spending only 2 hours at school

# Assessment

- Every day children have 3 lessons to improve them cognitive and motor skills but there is no translation of Information about children's skills and abilities from Orphan House to school.
- Teachers did not use the children's strengths to entice them into participating in classroom activities.
- Children's involvement in school was only for socialization and being with peers rather than for the purpose of learning.



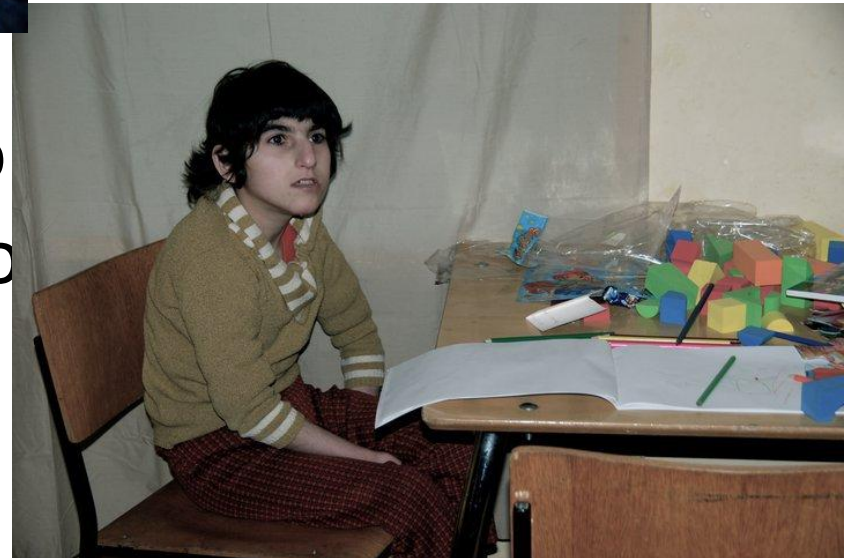
# Assessment

model of School  
(FA) instrument :

functions

(psychologists)

- Assessment of transpo  
academic skills, fine mo





# Recommendations

- Make 3 hours of lessons separate 45 min lessons with 15 min of break (school - type model):
  1. Academic activities (draw figures with shapes , listen to stories, narration, learn alphabet, write lines and learn numbers)
  2. Fine motor activities (paint and draw, cut with scissors, play with puzzles, colors, blocks and Lego)
  3. Physical activities (games, music, dancing, following instructions)
- Participate with school teachers (homework, sharing information and planning and achieving goals together)

# Experience and self-assessment

- “First experience of working with occupational therapists in team...”
- “Volunteering is a good way to provide new skills, competences and employability...”
- “You really can change the world and make something good... you are growing as a person...”
- ”Working with children who have learning disabilities helping you to become a better person...”
- “My friends and I will be working as volunteers in the future for sure, and we will encourage others to do the same...”

# Assessment of the project

## Weak sides

- Busy schedule of students
- Holidays
- Resistance of institution system

## Strong sides

- Motivation of students
- Responsibilities and roles in team
- Importance of occupational therapy in multidisciplinary work
- Using of our recommendations
- Children started to be involved in classroom activities

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