

## CONDITION OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT CREATION IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ITS DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

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### ABSTRACT

*Educators should attempt to create a common and solid strategy in preschool educational institutions in order to sufficiently ensure a safe social environment of children. A research examining health and safety issues in Lithuanian preschools was carried out in Klaipeda. The aim of this paper was to analyse the conditions of safe environment creation for children in preschool educational institution and its development prospects. The following research questions were asked:*

- *What are the factors that influence the safety of preschool educational institution environment and could these factors be developed?*
- *What difficulties arise in the process of safe environment creation for children?*
- *How could the creation of safe environment be developed in contemporary preschool educational institutions?*

*A theoretical and empirical analysis of a safe environment creation allowed determining the following development perspectives:*

- a) Possibilities of safe environment creation in a preschool educational institution depending on analysis of the activity condition in the institution,*
- b) Formation of organisation mission and targets, strategy formation,*
- c) Implementation and control of organisation.*
- d) Collaboration of directors.*

*The paper first defines the research problems and the relevance of the topic. Subsequently the research design and methodology are described. Finally findings are reported and discussed in the light of the literature and conclusions drawn.*

### INTRODUCTION

Today a Safe Community Programme is being implemented in different countries of the world. The measures of Children's Environment Development must be safe and carried out at the highest level. It is stated in Article 31 in the "The Convention on the Rights of the Child" (1989) that "all children have a right to relax and play in a safe environment corresponding to their age".

Following the "WHO Ideology "European Health for All"(2010), the first Safe Community Programme was created in 1975. According to the opinion of the World

Health Organization (WHO), carrying out the universal children's safe environment programme, it is necessary to define criteria on the basis of which the programme would include all age groups, areas, situations, including public and independent sectors of the community to the preventive activity.

The entire attitude towards the health development is common to all foreign country preschool education programmes. The main objects and tasks of health development are included in the section "Physical Training" (European Health for All, 2010 and <http://www.unesco.org/>),

(the following programmes were formed in this way: Belgian programme – section “Les activités psychomotrices” / Programme des activités, 1985; French programme – section “Les activités physiques” / L' école maternelle, 1986; Swiss programme – section “Education physique” / Le printemps de la vie scolaire, 1987; North Carolina programme – section “Movement”).

The creation of safe communities is relevant to Lithuania as well (Much space is assigned for education on children's safety Ankstvyjougdymovadovas, 2001, General Preschool Education and Learning Programme, 2002, Project of Interior Audit Methodology in Preschools, 2004 and Ikimokykliniougdyimoistaiigos. Higienosnormosirtaisyles, 2002). prevention issues in the Lithuanian Health Programme (1997-2010). It is emphasized in the Guidelines of Lithuanian Education Reform (1993) that proper environment is necessary for health strengthening and conservation and its foundation is already laid at the preschool age (Healthy Lifestyle Development of Preschool Age Children, 2004). The contemporary science proves that health development foundation is formed at the early age of children. The early age of children is a period when physical, psychical and moral health foundation is laid. Therefore it means that in order to strengthen the health of children the directors of preschool education institutions should create a safe environment and organize the health teaching. “Programme for Development of Safe Lifestyle Skills of Preschool Age Children” (1997) includes social, psychological and physical safety of children and provides the factors hazardous for life and health.

In order to develop the creation of safe environment in the preschool educational institutions it is necessary to identify the occurring problems, factors determining the safety of children. The following scientists carried out the scientific researches in Lithuania: Adaskeviciene (1994), Andrikiene (2003), Leliugiene (1997), Kucinskas (2004), Kucinskas, Poderiene (2006), Kvieskiene (2003), Vaitkevicius (1995), Jonutyte (2002), Targamadze (1996, 2001), Mikoliuniene (2000), Jonutyte and Budreikaite (2004), Raipa (2001), Jucevicius and Juceviciene (2003) and others. It is necessary to analyse the works of foreign scientists (Hopkins, Ainscow, West, 1994; Robbins, 2003; Schindler,

Thomas, 1993; Caughlin (1997). However, the experience of other states does not always correspond to the contemporary experience of Lithuanian preschool institutions and therefore it can only partially help the directors of preschool institutions and pedagogues to prepare the strategic guidelines for development of safe environment creation for children in preschool institutions. Scientific problematic questions occur: what are the factors that influence the safety of preschool educational institution environment? How to develop these factors? What difficulties arise in the process of safe environment creation for children? How could the creation of safe environment be developed in contemporary preschool educational institutions?

### **The research design**

The aim of this research was to analyse the conditions of safe environment creation for children in a preschool educational institution and its development prospects.

### **Objectives**

- To research and assess the condition of safe environment creation for children in preschool educational institutions.
- To determine the problems of safe environment creation and its development prospects.

### **Research questions**

- What are the factors that influence the safety of preschool educational institution environment and could these factors be developed?
- What difficulties arise in the process of safe environment creation for children?
- How could the creation of safe environment be developed in contemporary preschool educational institutions?

### **Data collection and analysis**

A written survey in the form of anonymous questionnaire intended for directors and pedagogues of preschool educational institutions and parents was selected to be the main research method.

### **Structure of research instrument**

The questionnaire has an introductory, main and final part. It is attempted to comply with certain requirements and

recommendations in the introductory part. First of all, it is briefly explained in the survey what the purpose of the survey is. Then the anonymity of the respondent is guaranteed and a short instruction of the questionnaire is provided.

The main part contains questions by which it is attempted to receive the information necessary for research. The final part of the questionnaire comprises socio-demographical questions, i.e. questions for directors and pedagogues of preschool institutions about the age of the person researched, how long he has been working in the institution, what type of work he does in the institution and also questions for parents about the age, sex of the researched person, how old their child is, how many years their child attends this preschool educational institution.

The questionnaire of respondents consists of 30 closed questions. Since they are comfortable and clear the respondents could quickly answer them. The statements were assessed on the scale: "yes", "partly", "no" and "no opinion". The frequency of answers is provided in percentage emphasizing positive and negative answers.

### **Methods of questionnaire compilation**

The persons researched had to answer the questions provided in the questionnaire by marking the answer corresponding to their attitude.

### **Processing of the data received**

Based on the above mentioned method of quantitative research a statistical analysis of research data was carried out. The questionnaire was divided into several co-centres. The first co-centre was used for identification of assessments of safe environment in preschool educational institutions. 4 questions were used for this. The second co-centre was used for identification of compliance with hygiene norms in a preschool educational institution. It consists of five questions. The third co-centre comprises six questions and it is used for identification if material provision is sufficient in a preschool educational institution. The fourth co-centre is used for identification how factors influencing the state of children's health in a preschool educational institution are assessed. 8 questions were used for this. The fifth co-centre is used for clarification of nutrition assessment in a preschool educational institution. Two

questions are used for this. The sixth co-centre was used for clarification of education quality assessment in a preschool educational institution. This co-centre consisted of three questions. The seventh co-centre comprised two questions and they were used for identification of psych emotional climate in a preschool education institution. The statistical data analysis was carried out using software SPSS 13.0 for Windows and Microsoft Excel 2000.

Mann – Whitney Test was applied for comparison according to the feature acquiring two values. Significant differences were defined according to the calculated values of p. P-value and averages of answer ratings were the most significant features in the test. Differences between answers of respondents of two groups are statistically significant only if p-value is lower than 0.05. If the differences between group answers are statistically significant, then the authors assess what the differences are. They analyse the averages of group answer ratings: which one is bigger and which one is smaller. The more the average is bigger the more respondents approve of the opinion expressed and the more the average is smaller - the less they approve of it. They provide the data of non-parametric criteria in this paper only in the cases when they are statistically significant and directly related to the problem analysed.

### **Research procedures**

The preparation for empirical analysis was consistent complying with the certain sequence of actions, data collection fixation and analysis procedures. The following research procedures were adhered to: scope of the research, choice of selection method; questionnaire formation; survey management; data analysis and generalization.

An empirical research was carried out during 2006 - 2007. Having selected preschool institutions a connection with the directors of these institutions was made and official permissions for implementation of the research were received. The questionnaires were spread by presenting them in certain institutions and submitting to the representatives of preschool institutions in person. The questionnaire compilation procedure and their restitution issue were explained in the questionnaire. A total of 600

questionnaires were distributed with the restitution percentage of 85 %.

## Scope of the research

A random selection method was used for formation of the research scope: randomly 5 Klaipeda, 3 Kaunas and 2 Marijampole preschool educational institutions were selected and directors, pedagogues and parents were questioned in these institutions. 20 directors (directors and deputy directors), 240 pedagogues and 250 parents participated in the research. This number of researched persons is sufficient in order to identify the tendencies of safe environment creation in a preschool education institution. It was made clear during the research that there are no statistically significant differences between the attitudes of directors and pedagogues therefore the data of director and pedagogue survey is provided after generalization as the opinion of pedagogues.

The analysis of the scope of the research shows that 55.2% of the persons researched consisted of 31 – 40 years old respondent parents, 32% consisted of parents up to 30 years old and 12.8% of parents participating in the research were 41 – 50 years old. The majority of directors and pedagogues - 49.2% consisted of 41 – 50 years old persons, 22.3% - of 31 – 40 years old persons and 12.3% persons were elder than 51 years. 1.5% of directors and pedagogues did not indicate their age. 65.6% of parents participating in the research were women and 34.4% were men. 100% of the pedagogues surveyed were women.

The length of relation of directors, pedagogues and parents with the institution researched is defined by the length of children attendance at the preschool educational institution and the length of work experience of directors and pedagogues in the institution researched (Table 1).

Pedagogues and directors with 6-10 years of work experience in the institution researched form 6.2% of the researched, 11-20 years of work experience form 47.7% of the researched and 21 and more years of work experience in the institution research form 43.1% of the researched. The major part, i.e. 38.4% of parents have 3 and more years of experience of communication with the preschool institution since their children attend this institution for this

period of time, 32% of them have 2 years of communication experience and 29.6% of them have 1 year experience.

Directors, pedagogues of preschool educational institutions and children's parents participating in the researches distinguished by age, experience (work experience and relation with the institution researched) and other differences. Therefore it is possible that the methodology of safe environment planning and assessment in preschool educational institutions is comprehensible to the research participants. We can also state that the majority of the researched have sufficient experience in order to properly assess the conditions of safe environment creation in preschool educational institutions.

## ***Assessment of safe environment creation in a preschool educational institution: attitude of pedagogues.***

Attitude of preschool education institution directors and pedagogues towards safe environment in preschool educational institutions was researched. For this reason it is very important to assess the current situation, what safe environment creation strategies were useful and what should be changed and improved. During the research it was attempted to clarify the level of safe environment assessment of preschool educational institution pedagogues. The results are provided in Table 1.

From Table 1 it is shown that more than a half of preschool education pedagogues (56.9%) know how the environment safety is assessed, however less than a half (40%) think that they only partly know how the environment safety is assessed in a preschool educational institution. The major part of preschool education pedagogues (71.5%) stated that safe environment for children was ensured however more than a half (57.7%) thought that parents

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Do you know how the environment safety of preschool institutions is assessed?	56.9%	40%	1.5%	1.5%
Do you think safe environment for children is ensured in your institution?	71.5%	23.8%	3.8%	0.8%
Are parents included in the creation of safe environment in the preschool institution?	26.2%	57.7%	15.4%	0.8%
Do children feel safe?	80%	14.6%	0	5.4%

**Table 1. Attitude of pedagogues towards the insurance of safe environment creation in a preschool educational institution**

were only partially included to the creation of safe environment in a preschool educational institution. 80% of pedagogues think that children feel safe in a preschool education institution.

It was attempted by the research to explore what the attitude of pedagogues towards hygiene conditions in a preschool educational institution is. The data on this question of the analysis carried out is provided in Table 2.

As from the data provided (in Table 2) bathrooms are of sufficient condition, 49.6% of pedagogues' state so. The research results disclose that more than a half of the questioned pedagogues, i.e. 76.9% of respondents assess the lighting in a preschool educational institution is sufficiently proper. The major part of questioned pedagogues, i.e. 80% of respondents think that normal work noise prevails in the institution and only a small part 15.4% think that such situation is provided only partially. Pedagogues of preschool educational institutions (73.8%) positively assess the warmth in a preschool educational institution, they state that it is warm enough, 20.8% of respondents declare that it is only partly sufficient and 5.4% state that the temperature does not satisfy them. 93.1% of pedagogues positively assess the compliance with the hygiene norms in preschool educational institutions.

The authors provide the attitude of pedagogues towards material provision of a preschool educational institution in Table 3.

Taking into consideration the above provided data, it shows that the quality of furniture in preschool educational institutions is satisfactory, i.e. 31.5% of pedagogues think that they are satisfied with the quality of furniture therein, 43.8% think that they are partly satisfied. 23.1% pedagogues of preschool educational institutions are not

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Are you satisfied with the bathrooms of this institution?	49.6%	35.7%	10.9%	3.9%
Is lighting sufficient in this institution?	76.9%	19.2%	3.8%	0
Is normal work noise prevailing in this institution?	80%	15.4%	3.8%	0.8%
Is the temperature of the rooms in this institution sufficient?	73.8%	20.8%	5.4%	0
Are hygiene norms adhered to in this institution?	93.1%	6.9%	0	0

**Table 2. Attitude of pedagogues towards hygiene conditions in a preschool educational institution**

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Are you satisfied with the quality of furniture located in groups?	31.5%	43.8%	23.1%	1.5%
Are you satisfied with the quality of flooring in groups?	66.2%	26.9%	6.9%	0
Is the inventory located in the institution premises well fastened?	81.5%	13.8%	4.6%	0
Are you satisfied with the condition of pitches and territory of the institution?	17.7%	50.8%	30.8%	0.8%
Is material provision of the institution sufficient?	26.9%	42.3%	30.8%	0
Do you think the inventory and equipment in groups are renewed or supplemented sufficiently enough?	20.8%	56.9%	22.3%	0

**Table 3. Attitude of pedagogues towards material provision of a preschool educational institution**

satisfied with the current quality of furniture. 66.2% of preschool educational institutions are satisfied with the quality of flooring, almost a third – 26.9% think that it is only partly satisfactory. Inventory located in the premises is well fastened. The major part - 81.5% of preschool educational institution pedagogues declared so. The research data shows that more than a half (50.8%) of respondent pedagogues replied that they were only partly satisfied with the condition of the institution territory and pitches, 30.8% of them think that this condition is not satisfactory. Regarding material provision of preschool educational institutions, 26.9% of pedagogues told that material provision of the institution was sufficient. The major part – 42.3% of pedagogues told that in their opinion the material provision of the institution was only partly sufficient, 30.8% of the questioned persons were not satisfied with material provision of a preschool educational institution. With reference to the data provided (in Table 4) it can be stated that inventory and equipment in groups of preschool educational institutions are only partly renewed and supplemented 56.9% of pedagogues' state so. The fifth part of respondents, i.e. 20.8% state that they are sufficiently renewed and 22.3% think that they are insufficiently renewed.

Based on the data of the analysis carried out the following results of attitude of preschool educational institution pedagogues towards the health education quality are provided (Table 4).

With reference to the data provided (in Table 4) it shows that more than a half (53.8%) of preschool educational



institution pedagogues are satisfied with the condition and quality of sports inventory in the school, 33.4% of pedagogues are partly satisfied. 83.1% of pedagogues state that health strengthening programmes are carried out in a preschool educational institution. 86.2% of the questioned state that the weekly load of physical training activities in preschool educational institutions is sufficient. 79.2% of preschool educational institution pedagogues think that the number of different festivals, matches and meetings organized promoting the health strengthening in institutions is sufficient, 13.1% of research participants state that they are only "partly" organized.

The quality of room service has much influence on creation of safe environment in preschool educational institutions. The preschool educational institution pedagogues were asked if they were satisfied with the medical room service quality. 74.6% of pedagogues are satisfied with the service of medical rooms in preschool educational institutions. 24.6% of pedagogues are partly satisfied. The majority, i.e. 86.9% of preschool educational institution pedagogues state that children like sports. It was attempted during the research to know the attitude of pedagogues towards health condition of children attending a preschool educational institution (Table 4). It was determined by the research that the opinions of pedagogues were grouped in the following way: 36.2% of them state that in their opinion the health condition of children attending the preschool educational institution is satisfactory, 46.9% of them think that is only partly satisfactory and 14.6% of them think that it is not satisfactory.

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Are you satisfied with the condition and quality of sports inventory?	53.8%	35.4%	8.5%	2.3%
Are health strengthening programmes carried out in the institution?	83.1%	11.5%	4.6%	0.8%
Do you think the current load of physical training activities is sufficient?	86.2%	9.2%	4.6%	0
Is the number of different sports festivals, matches and meetings sufficient?	79.2%	13.1%	7.7%	0
Are you satisfied with the service quality of the medical room?	74.6%	24.6%	0.8%	0
Does the child like sports?	86.9%	13.1%	0	0
Is the health condition of children attending groups sufficient?	36.2%	46.9%	14.6%	2.3%
Does the child get tired?	28.5%	53.1%	18.5%	0

Table 4. Attitude of pedagogues towards health education quality

It was determined during the research that according to the pedagogues' attitude the preschool age children attending preschool educational institutions get tired (28.5%) or get partly tired (53.1%). Only 18.5% of pedagogues think that children do not get tired.

With reference to the data of the research analysis carried out the authors provide the attitude of preschool educational institution pedagogues towards the children education quality (Table 5).

Taking into consideration the data provided (in Table 5) it can be declared that almost a half, i.e. 49.2% of pedagogues are satisfied with the number of children in a group, the other part, i.e. 36.2% are not satisfied with the number of children, and 14.6% of these respondents are partially satisfied. The major part, i.e. 80.8% of respondents think that planning the education process the children physiology in a preschool educational institution is considered. According to the opinion of 34.6% and 29.2% of a preschool educational institution pedagogues the group area and space correspond to the individual needs of children, however more than a third part, i.e. 36.2% of respondents tell that the group space and area do not correspond to the individual needs of children.

The attitude of preschool educational institution pedagogues towards psychosocial climate in a preschool educational institution is provided in Table 6.

With reference to the above provided data we can state that according to the opinion of the majority, i.e. 72.3% respondents an acceptable emotional atmosphere prevails in an educational institution, 20.8% of respondents

Question	Yes	Partly	No
Do you think the number of children in groups is optimum?	49.2%	14.6%	36.2%
Is physiology of children considered while planning the education process?	80.8%	18.5%	0.8%
Do the space and area of the group correspond to the individual needs of a child?	34.6%	29.2%	36.2%

Table 5. Attitude of pedagogues towards children education quality

Question	Yes	Partly	No
Do you think the emotional atmosphere prevailing in the institution is acceptable?	72.3%	20.8%	6.9%
Are children friendly?	94.6%	3.8%	1.6%

Table 6. Attitude of pedagogues towards the psychosocial climate in a preschool educational institution

indicate that emotional atmosphere is only partially acceptable in a preschool educational institution, 6.9% of respondents indicate that emotional atmosphere is not acceptable to them. The major part of the questioned preschool educational institution pedagogues, i.e. 94.6% of respondents, declares that children are friendly.

### **Assessment of safe environment creation in a preschool educational institution: attitude of parents**

Attitude of different preschool educational institution parents towards safe environment in preschool educational institutions was researched. It was attempted during the research to determine the level of conception of safe environment assessment of parents of preschool educational institution children. Results are provided in Table 7.

Table 7 shows that the major part of parents of preschool educational institution children (56%) do not know how the environment safety is assessed, however the bigger part of them (64.8%) think that safe environment for children is ensured in the institution. Only 38.4% of parents think that they are partly included to the creation of safe environment in preschool educational institutions and 29.6% of parents think that they are not included at all. Quite a big part of parents (79.2%) think that children feel safe in a preschool educational institution.

It was attempted by the research to know what the attitude of parents towards sanitary-hygiene conditions is in a preschool educational institution. The data of the analysis carried out on this question is provided in Table 8.

As shown from the data provided (in the Table 8) bathrooms are of satisfactory condition. 40.8% of parents declare so. With reference to the data provided we can notice that the

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Do you know how the environment safety of preschool institutions is assessed?	10.4%	23.2%	56%	10.4%
Are parents included in the creation of safe environment in the preschool institution?	64.8%	27.2%	1.6%	6.4%
Are parents included in the creation of safe environment in the preschool institution?	14.4%	38.4%	29.6%	17.6%
Does a child feel safe?	79.2%	15.2%	2.4%	3.2%

**Table 7. Attitude of parents towards the insurance of safe environment creation in a preschool educational institution.**

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Are you satisfied with the bathrooms of this institution?	40.8%	24.8%	8.8%	25.6%
Is lighting sufficient in this institution?	59.2%	27.2%	3.2%	10.4%
Is normal work noise prevailing in this institution?	67.2%	9.6%	0	23.2%
Is the temperature of the rooms in this institution sufficient?	72.8%	17.6%	4.8%	4.8%
Are hygiene norms adhered to in this institution?	78.4%	6.4%	0	15.2%

**Table 8. Attitude of parents towards hygiene conditions in a preschool educational institution.**

major part of parents questioned, i.e. 59.2% of respondents assess that the lighting in a preschool educational institution is sufficiently proper. 27.2% of parents think that it is partly suitable and 10.4% think that it is improper. 67.2% of parents think that working noise prevailing in the institution is normal, only a small part, i.e. 9.6% of parents think that only partly normal working noise prevails in the institution; almost a fourth of respondents do not know how to answer this question. The major part of parents, i.e. 72.8%, are satisfied with current room temperature in preschool institutions, 17.6% of them are partly satisfied and 4.8% tell that the temperature is not satisfactory and the same number of respondents indicate that they do not know. 78.4% of parents indicate that hygiene norms are adhered to in the institution, 6.4% indicate that they are only partly adhered to and more than 15% of parents do not have opinion about this question.

The results of parents' attitude towards material provision of a preschool educational institution are provided in Table 9.

It is shown from the data provided above that almost half of respondents, i.e. 47.2% indicate that the quality of furniture

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Are you satisfied with the quality of furniture located in groups?	31.2%	47.2%	19.2%	2.4%
Are you satisfied with the quality of flooring in groups?	41.6%	27.2%	3.2%	4.8%
Is the inventory located in the institution premises well fastened?	48%	8%	1.6%	42.4%
Are you satisfied with the condition of pitches and territory of the institution?	36%	31.2%	25.6%	7.2%
Is material provision of the institution sufficient?	14.4%	28.8%	38.4%	18.4%
Do you think the inventory and equipment in groups are renewed or supplemented sufficiently enough?	16%	44%	21.6%	18.4%

**Table 9. Attitude of parents towards material provision of a preschool educational institution**

in preschool educational institutions is satisfactory, 42.4% and 41.6% of parents indicate that they are satisfied and partly satisfied with the flooring quality and almost half, i.e. 48% of respondents indicate that the inventory is well fastened. A similar number of parents do not know the answer. 36% of respondents are satisfied with the condition of territories and pitches in preschool educational institutions, 25.6% indicate that they are not satisfied and a third part is partly satisfied. It is to be noted that parents critically assess the material provision of the institution - 38.4% of parents indicate it as unsatisfactory, 14.4% are satisfied with this position, 28.8% are partly satisfied and almost a fifth of parents do not have opinion. Almost a half, i.e. 44% of respondents indicate that inventory and equipment in groups are renewed and supplemented only partly, 21.6% state that that they are renewed insufficiently, the fifth part do not know and only 16% of the parents who expressed their opinion are satisfied with this process.

The results of respondent parents' attitude towards health education quality are provided in Table 10.

Almost a half, i.e. 46.6% of parents cannot say anything about the condition and quality of sports inventory in a preschool educational institution, 33.6% indicate that they are satisfied with this condition and 14.4% state that they are partly satisfied. Only a small part, i.e. 5.6% of respondents think that the condition of this inventory is not satisfactory. 56.8% declare that health strengthening programmes are carried out in a preschool educational institution, almost a third, i.e. 29.6% declare that they do not have opinion and 12.0% of parents participating in the research think they are partly organized and a small part,

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Are you satisfied with the condition and quality of sports inventory?	33.6%	14.4%	5.6%	46.6%
Are health strengthening programmes carried out in the institution?	56.8%	12.0%	1.6%	29.6%
Do you think the current load of physical training activities is sufficient?	56.0%	17.6%	7.2%	19.2%
Is the number of different sports festivals, matches and meetings sufficient?	48.0%	22.4%	15.2%	14.4%
Are you satisfied with the service quality of the medical room?	56.8%	7.2%	2.4%	33.6%
Does the child like sports?	87.2%	10.4%	2.4%	0
Is the health condition of children attending groups sufficient?	46.4%	38.4%	4.8%	10.4%
Do the children get tired?	12.0%	32.8%	53.6%	1.6%

Table 10. Attitude of parents towards health education quality

i.e. 1.6% state that they are not organized. The major part of respondents, i.e. 56% state that the weekly load of physical training activities for children in preschool educational institutions is not sufficient, 17.6% of parents participating in the research are partly satisfied, 7.2% are not satisfied with the load of physical training activities organized in preschool educational institutions and 19.2% do not have opinion about this issue (Table 10). According to the statement of preschool educational institution parents a sufficient number of different festivals, matches, meetings promoting health strengthening is organized in institutions. Almost half, i.e. 48% of parents state so, 22.4% state that it is partly satisfactory, 15.2% state that not a sufficient number of sports festivals, matches, and meetings is organized and 14.4% do not have opinion about this question. Medical room and service quality has much influence on safe environment creation in preschool educational institutions. Parents of a preschool educational institution were asked if they were satisfied with the service quality of medical rooms. More than a half, i.e. 56.8% of respondent parents are satisfied with the service of medical rooms and medical service, 7.2% of parents are partly satisfied, 2.4% are not satisfied and 33.6% do not have opinion. Almost all respondent parents, i.e. 87.2% and 10.4% state that children like sports and partly like it. When they were asked about the health condition of children attending a preschool educational institution, almost a half of respondent parents, i.e. 46.4% state that in their opinion it is satisfactory, 38.4% are partly satisfied and 4.8% state that it is not satisfactory. Other 10.4% do not have opinion about this question. 53.6% of parents state that children do not get tired in a preschool educational institution, 32.8% indicate that they are partly tired, 12.0% think that preschool age children attending preschool educational institutions get tired.

The results of data on the parents' attitude towards the children nutrition quality are provided in Table 11.

The data provided in Table 11 shows that the major part,

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Is the quality of products and meals offered for nutrition satisfactory?	2.4%	15.2%	67.2%	15.2%
Is the variety of meals offered for children satisfactory?	5.6%	19.2%	67.2%	8.0%

Table 11. Attitude of parents towards the children nutrition quality in a preschool educational institution



even 67.2% of respondents are not satisfied with the quality of products and meals offered for nutrition and the variety of meals offered for children in a preschool educational institution, only 15.2% and 19.2% are partly satisfied, 15.2% and 8% do not have opinion about this question.

With reference to the data of the analysis carried out the authors provide the assessment of parents' attitude towards children education quality in Table 12.

The major part of parents, i.e. 60.8% of parents are satisfied with the number of children in a group, almost half of it, 49.6% indicate that while planning educational process the children physiology is considered in a preschool educational institution and more than a third, 38.4%, do not have opinion about this question. 44.8% think that the group space and area correspond to individual needs of a child, 37.6% of respondents indicate that they partly correspond to these needs.

The results of parents' attitude towards the psychosocial climate in a preschool educational institution are provided in Table 13.

75.2% of respondents indicate that emotional atmosphere prevailing in a preschool educational institution is satisfactory and 93.6% of respondents state that a child has friends.

***A comparative analysis of results of pedagogue and parent attitude towards safe environment insurance in a preschool educational education institution***

Pedagogues of preschool educational institutions think that they know how the environment safety of preschool educational institutions is assessed (average rating -

172.79), parents know significantly less (average rating - 81.42). This difference between pedagogue and parent opinions is statistically significant ( $p=0.000$ ). Pedagogues are satisfied with the parent inclusion to the creation of safe environment for children in a preschool educational institution (average rating - 150.11), parents are less satisfied (average rating - 104.17). This difference between pedagogue and parent opinions is statistically significant ( $p=0.000$ ). Applying the Whitney 'U' Test the statistically significant differences between opinions of preschool education institution parents and pedagogues were made clear assessing the hygiene insurance in a preschool institution according to the condition of bathrooms in the institution (average rating - 139.92 of pedagogues and 114.69 of parents,  $p=0.003$ ), lighting (average rating - 140.31 of pedagogues and 115.20 of parents,  $p=0.001$ ), working noise prevailing in the institution (average rating -138.47 of pedagogues and 116.18 of parents,  $p=0.002$ ), adherence to hygiene norms in the institution (average rating -137.83 of pedagogues and 117.78 of parents,  $p=0.000$ ). In other cases the differences between pedagogue and parent opinions are not statistically significant.

It was defined comparing the difference between attitudes of pedagogues and parents of preschool educational institutions according to the flooring quality in groups, fastening of inventory, material provision of the institution, renewal and supplementation of inventory and equipment, material that pedagogues are more satisfied with this condition that parents (average ratings - from 153.76 to 141.64 of pedagogues and from 113.81 to 106.32 of parents,  $p=0.000 - 0.001$ ). This difference between pedagogue and parent opinions is statistically significant. Pedagogues are more satisfied than parents with health education quality, health strengthening programmes implemented in the institution, physical training activities, organization of sports festivals, matches, meetings and quality of medical services in a preschool educational institution (average ratings - from 152.52 to 144.80 of pedagogues and from 110.53 to 100.45 of parents, in all cases  $p=0.000$ ). Differences of pedagogue and parent attitude towards tiredness of children were made clear. Pedagogues indicate that children in a

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Do you think the number of children in groups is optimum?	60.8%	12.8%	7.2%	19.2%
Is physiology of children considered while planning the education process?	49.6%	12%	0	38.4%
Do the space and area of the group correspond to the individual needs of a child?	44.8%	37.6%	8%	9.6%

**Table 12. Attitude of parents towards children education quality**

Question	Yes	Partly	No	No opinion
Do you think the emotional atmosphere prevailing in the institution is acceptable?	75.2%	11.2%	0	13.6%
Does the child have friends?	93.6%	4.8%	0	1.6%

**Table 13. Attitude of parents towards the psychosocial climate in a preschool educational institution**

preschool educational institution get tired (average rating – 153.00), parents less notice the tiredness of parents (average rating – 102.00). This difference between the opinion of pedagogues and parents is statistically significant ( $p=0.000$ ). However there are no statistically significant differences between the answers of parents and pedagogues on the questions of children nutrition quality and psychosocial climate in the institution.

Statistically significant differences were made clear analysing the attitude of parents and pedagogues towards planning of education process taking into consideration the child's physiology and correspondence of group space and area with individual needs of a child. Pedagogues are more satisfied than parents with the planning of educational process taking into consideration physiology of a child (average rating – 152.04 and 137.86 of pedagogues and 103.00 and 118.52 of parents,  $p=0.000$  and  $p=0.027$ ).

### Conclusions

- Having carried out the analysis of documents and scientific literature we can state that during the period of Lithuanian Independence essential education regulating documents were adopted and the system for supervision of educational institution activity was formed. The status of family and a preschool educational system were defined in each of programmes and a possibility for their implementation is indicated. The following children education tendencies are made clear in all preschool education regulating documents: to know a child and respond to his needs; it is attempted to convey cultural, national values which would serve as a foundation on which the layers of social skills, new experiences would grow; a supporting, encouraging, stimulating and safe environment must be formed for natural maturation of children.
- Having analysed the scientific literature a conclusion can be made that the safety of a preschool educational institutions consists of the following: environment hospitality, safety and aesthetics microclimate of the institution quality of community member communication and collaboration correspondence of learning environment and measures with the age of children, needs and interests

of learning; satisfaction of individual safety, emotional, physical and social needs of a child; psychological and social help; strengthening of a child's health; space of activity and its condition in an institution; learning encouraging environment; structure and content of a strategic plan and annual activity programme.

- The data of an empirical research carried out shows that according to the opinion of pedagogues a social environment in a preschool educational institution is not safe enough: insufficient material provision, average inclusion of parents into the management process of a preschool educational have reached manhood, they have much pedagogical experience, however they lack theoretical safe environment creation knowledge. According to their opinion, a big number of children in groups, group space and area insufficiently correspond to the individual needs of a child; health education quality is only partly satisfactory. Therefore it is important to assess the situation, strategies of safe environment creation for children and to distinguish the areas to be improved in order to ensure safety.

- The research data shows that parents rely on pedagogues working in preschool educational institutions and safe environment for children in being created in the institution, however based on the data of research results we can state what parents do not know or insufficiently know about the methods of safe social environment creation in a preschool educational institution, they know less the safe environment creation components; they are not sufficiently included to the creation of safe environment, do not have opinion about the safe environment creation in a preschool educational institution; they are not satisfied with material provision, nutrition quality, condition of territories and pitches of the institution;

- The research disclosed that pedagogues and parents differently assess the environment of a preschool educational institution. We can state that parents more demandingly and critically assess the environment of a preschool educational institution.

A theoretical and empirical analysis of a safe environment creation allowed determining the following development

perspectives: possibilities of safe environment creation in a preschool educational institution depend on analysis of the activity condition in the institution, formation of organisation mission and targets, strategy formation, its implementation and control; collaboration of directors, pedagogues and parents, their constant interrelation and humanisation of educational process. Pedagogues should more clearly distinguish the activity priorities, form conditions for decision making and include parents to the implementation of the institution's objects. Different assessments of directors, pedagogues and parents on safe environment creation also have influence on prospects of strategic development of a preschool educational institution. Therefore pedagogues should attempt to create a common and solid strategy in preschool educational institutions in order to sufficiently ensure a safe social environment of children.

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