

Light table "KATE" was created in cooperation with "IESPĒJA IZAUGSMEI, Ltd" (Opportunity for Growth); the goal of this company is to create a different education and development system in Latvia by introducing innovative methods into teaching system in alternative environment on the basis of children's needs and abilities. /www.iespejaizaugsmei.lv/

Light table "Kate" is a piece of multipurpose equipment for education and development of children. It was created over time by observing and testing the influence of light on child's attention, perception, senses, thinking, imagination, ability to communicate and cooperate, and motivation for work. The individuality of each child has shown necessity to improve functionality of the light table; the table has to become comfortable for all possible body positions: sitting at the table with possibility of changing the slope, operating on the floor or other horizontal surface with possibility of changing the height based on the purpose of particular teaching activity. Light table "Kate" can be easily used working with children with physical disabilities since it allows to correctly position the body. This piece of equipment has become a favourite among children whose abilities were lower than those of their peers; the motivating environment of the light table was doing wonders: children were able to concentrate enough to learn numbers, letters, to improve their manipulative skills, eye-hand coordination, and ability to operate independently.

The Main Functions of Light Table "Kate":

Promote the development of cognitive processes. These are the main ways for a person to gain information about the world around that allows navigating and understanding one's own body. These are sensual processes - sensation and perception, generalized processes - thinking and speech, as well as operating processes - attention and memory.

Encourage the development of spheres of personal will and emotions, especially for children with predominance of negative emotions, mood swings, lack of motivation based on temperamental and character peculiarities. It can help to understand and order one's psychological build and to increase self-esteem.

Develop eye-hand coordination. Light effect allows the vision to follow the hand operation, especially for children with developmental disabilities and disturbances of attention.

Prepare hand for writing. Special stencils help children to draw different lines, letters and numbers. Also, practical life exercises on a light table are executed by children with greater joy.

Develop imagination. On the light table, children can work with sand, natural materials, colours, they can draw, paint, copy the images to the paper, watch the shadows of objects, learn to draw characters, shapes, create stories and tales.

Light table "Kate" is recommended for:

Pre-schools;

Primary schools;

Specialists: psychologists, psychotherapists, speech therapists, special educators, ergo therapists;

Relaxation rooms;

At home for development of child's creativity.

Irena Domniece

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