

English

Helping Children
To Do Well
In School



Jan and Tereza Novak's Story



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme





Art work
by
4th Class Pupils in Educate Together National
School
and
School Completion Students in Ennis
Community College
2011

Jan and Tereza have three children. Tomas is 14,
Katerina is 7 and Jakub is 3.

The Novaks moved to Ennis in 2005.



Tereza says it was very hard to get used to living in Ireland. Everything is different. Different houses, shops and school system.



Jan and Tereza want their children to get a good education and good jobs afterwards.



Tereza found out that there is one year free childcare/ preschool available for 3-4 year olds in Ireland. Jakub started in September and is already speaking a few words of English now at home.



Tereza got information about this free service from Clare County Childcare Committee at 065 6845515

Jacob learns while he plays with new friends.



He has learned about stories, numbers, colours, how to say please and thank you, how to wait his turn, share toys and make friends.

Tereza attends Family Learning Classes in the Adult Education Centre (065.6897645)
The tutor talks with her about the great job she does at home raising her children.



She has already taught her children many things as their first teacher...

...talking



...eating by themselves



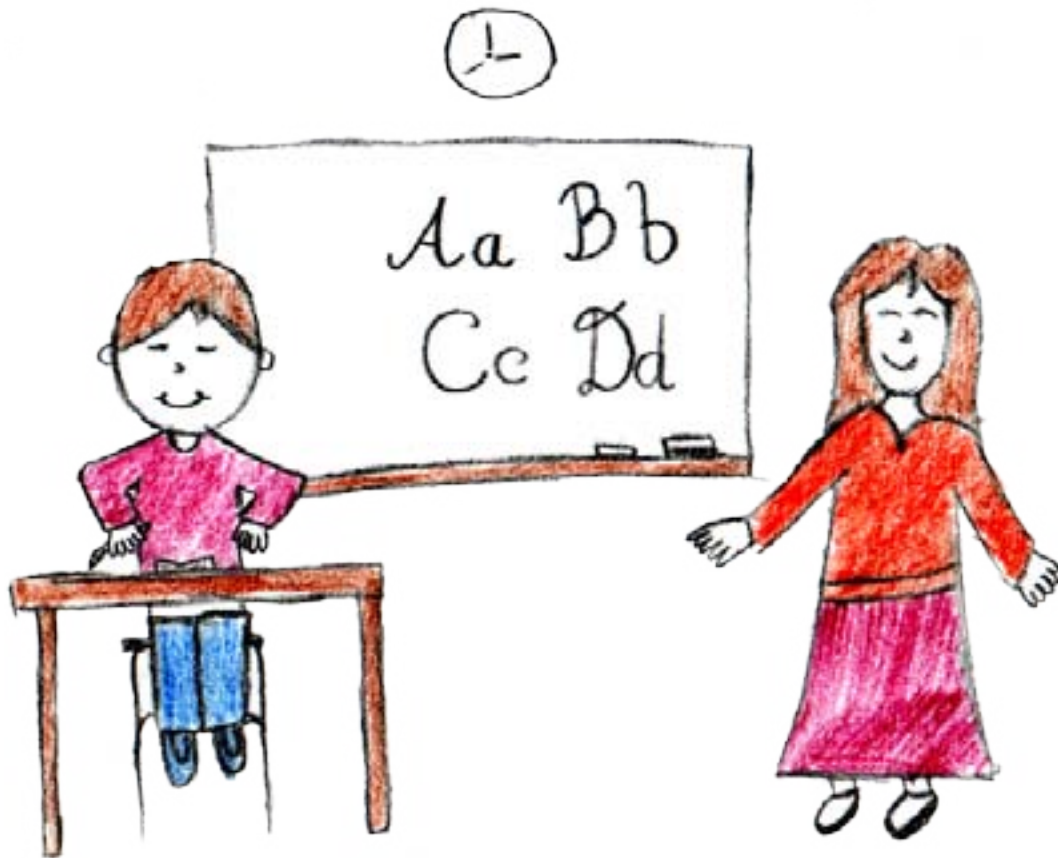
...getting dressed



...walking



Soon Jakub will be ready to join his big sister in primary school.



Jan says that starting primary school is a very big step for the child. He had to contact the Clare Education Centre 065.6845500 to get an enrolment form for the school.

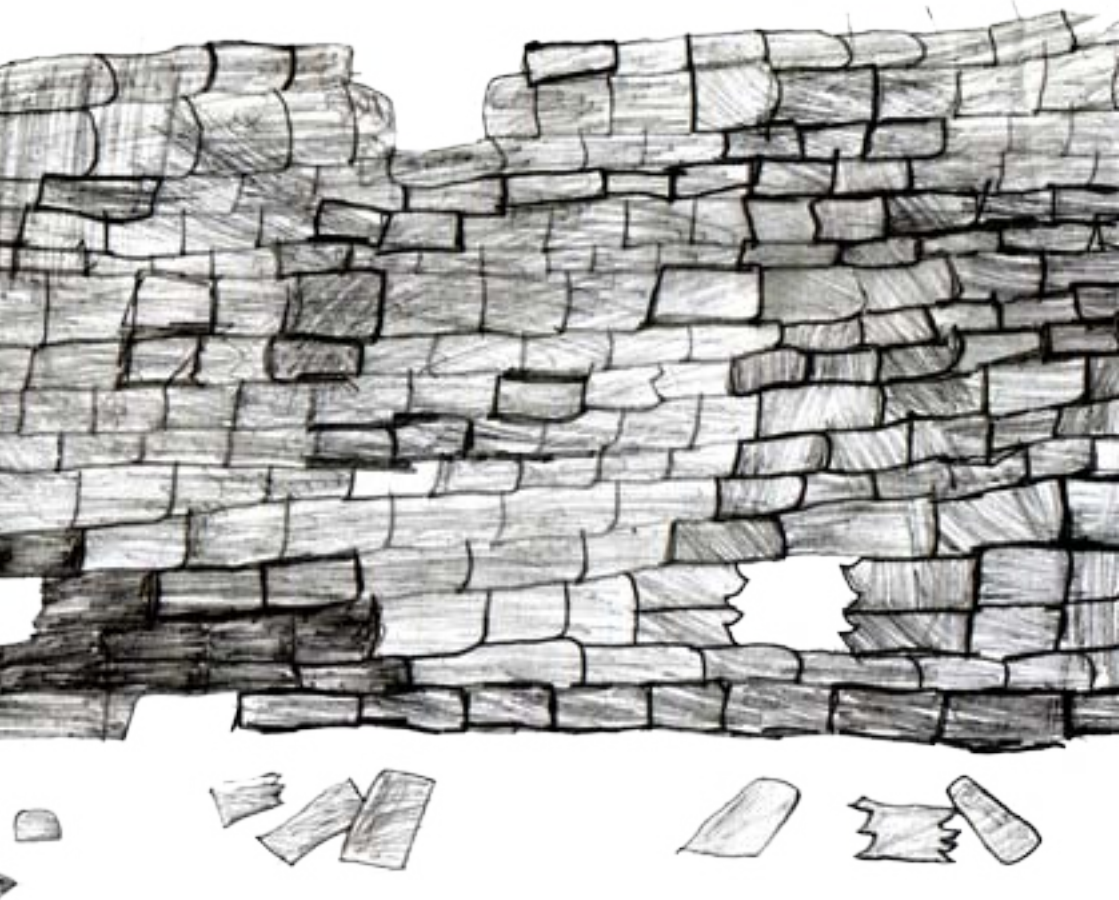
There are six primary schools in Ennis.



Jan was informed that his children have to stay in school in Ireland until 16 years of age.



Jan knows how important it is to go to school every day. He says learning is like building a house. Each day is like a brick and if there are days missing the foundation is not strong.



Jan helps Katerina with her homework with the same routine every evening. Sometimes he doesn't understand the words.



He has recently heard about English classes for parents in Ennis. He has started learning English to help with his children's homework. He tells his friends to contact the Clare Family Learning Project at 065.6897645 to join the group.



Jan is now reading English stories to Jakub and Katerina before they go to bed. The books are free to borrow from Ennis library 065.6846353.



The children love choosing books in English and other languages.

Tereza wants the children to talk to Granny and Granda who don't speak English. She is very happy that the children can speak both languages now!

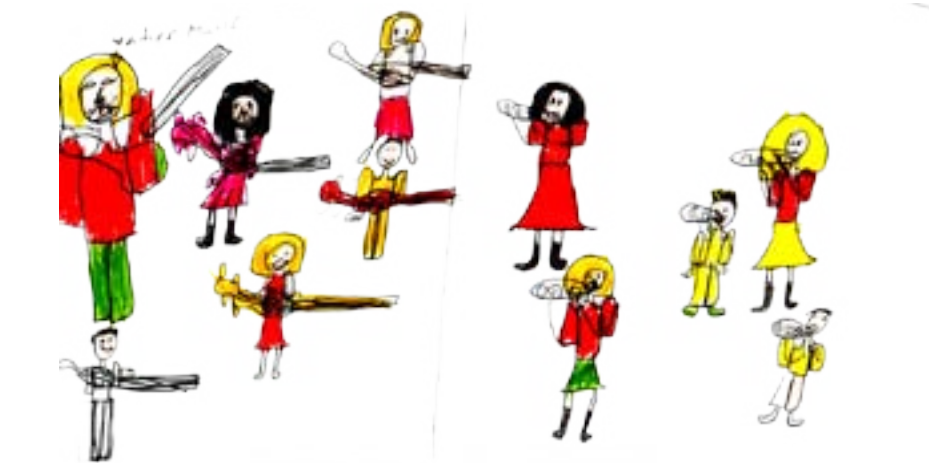


Katerina is in first class in primary school. She likes to have her homework done each day. She likes to talk to her parents about what she is doing in school.



The teacher said Katerina is doing so well in school because Mum and Dad are really interested in their children's education.

Tereza discovered that after school there are sports and music activities. Some of these are free and others need to be paid for.



Jan and Tereza try to remember to always ask about what happens in school.

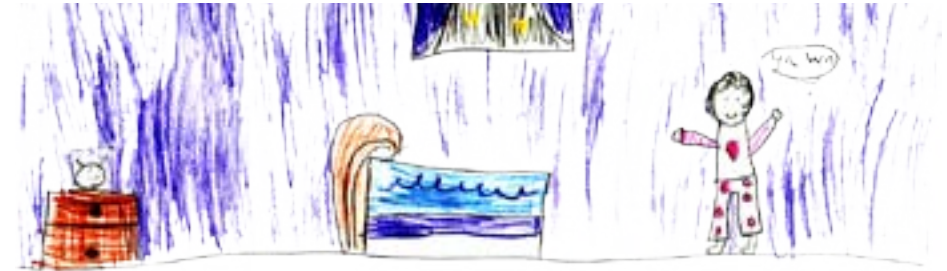
How did you get on today?



Tereza's friend asks how do you do it? How do you help your children to do so well in school?
Tereza thinks and then says:



“Children need to go to bed in good time on Sunday nights and school days. Tired children are not able to keep up with the school work.

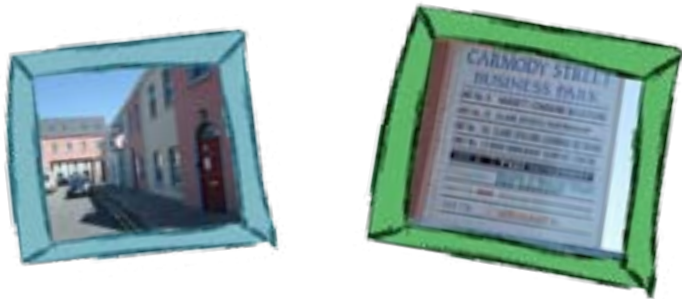


You need to set the alarm clock in good time so that you can get your child to school on time. Help your child pack his or her school bag and prepare the lunch the night before, so you and your child have more time to get ready in the morning.”



“The sports bag also needs to be ready!”

Tereza told her friend to get more information about school from Clare Immigrant Support Centre 065.6822026...



...and Citizen Information Centre 065.6841221.



Keeping in touch with the teacher and principal is really important according to Jan. If letters come from school and you don't understand them ask your child if they have better English than you or a friend to help you understand what it says. It is important to know what is happening.



Jan and Tereza keep in touch with the school if the children are sick or have to take time off to see the dentist.

Tereza's friend asks what do you give the children for lunch?



Tereza says it's very important that children have good, easy to eat food that they like. Whole wheat bread with cheese, fish, cold meat or salad fillings are good with a fresh fruit snack every day. A bottle of water is best. This cuts down on visits to the dentist and doctor.

Tomas moved to second level school last year. Jan and Tereza spoke to Tomas's teacher in sixth class who told them to complete an application form in November for a place in the school.



Tomas and his parents visited the school some weeks before he started there. All the new students and their parents were there. The principal and staff welcomed them all and showed them around the school.

There were many changes at second level school, lots of new subjects with a different teacher for each one. Finding his way around the school, making new friends and getting used to more homework were all hard at first but Tomas got used to it.



Tomas is working hard on all his subjects. His career guidance teacher says he can join the Gardaí when he leaves school if he gets good marks in his final exams in five years.



Tomas says he studies better when it is quiet, when he is well fed and well rested.



Parents can help out with activities after school. Jan has volunteered to help with the school's sport team.



Tomas is very proud of his Dad's football skills.

Tereza has suggested that Tomas join the homework club in his school where he can get his homework done in a quiet space.



Attending study after school usually has to be paid for. Some homework clubs are free or cost a small amount.

Tomas says having a good education means:

"I will be more likely to learn..."



...develop new skills...



...make and keep friends...



...have more confidence...



...do better in exams...



...be happy in life...



...be employed and get a higher earning job when I start working."



The Irish Education System

Mapa vzdelávacieho programu

| Third Level | | From 17/18 | Universities | Institutes of Technology | Private Third Level Colleges | |
|-------------|--|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | Qualification | Doctorate | Doctorate | Doctorate | |
| | | | Masters | Masters | Masters | |
| | | | Degree | Degree | Degree | |
| | | | | Higher Certificate | Higher Certificate | |

| Further Education | | From 17/18 | Further Education | Location | Qualification | From Age 16 | Training and Apprenticeships | Qualification |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|--|------------------------------|---------------|
| | | Course is usually 1 to 2 years | Post Leaving Certificate Programmes | Adult Education Centres Colleges of Further Education Secondary Schools Private Business Schools | FETAC | Course can be from 6 months to 4 years | FAS CERT Teagasc | FETAC |

Second Level

| Secondary School | | | Examinations |
|------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| | From 15/16 to 17/18 | Senior Cycle | |
| | | 6 th Year 5 th Year 4 th Year (Transition Year) | Leaving Certificate |
| | From 12/13 to 15/16 | Junior Cycle | |
| | | 3 rd year 2 nd year 1 st year | Junior Certificate |

Compulsory Schooling

First Level

Pre - Primary

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| From 4 to 5 years To 12/13 | National School | 6 th class 5 th class 4 th class 3 rd class 2 nd class 1 st class Senior Infants Junior Infants | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|

Designed by Jacinta Davenport, Co-ordinator, Clare Adult Guidance Service, Clare VEC.

The following are the Irish partners in the RoFaL Comenius Project 2010-2012. This booklet was produced by the partners as part of our project work.

Clare Family Learning Project

Adult Education Centre,
Clonroad,
Ennis,
Co. Clare
Tel: 065.6897645

Ennis Educate Together School

Gort Road,
Ennis,
Co. Clare.
Tel: 065.6820070

Ennis Community College

Harmony Row,
Ennis,
Co. Clare
Tel: 065.6829432

Clare Immigrant Support Centre

Carmody Street Business Park,
Carmody Street,
Ennis,
Co. Clare.
Tel: 065.6822026.



