

Gimenu skolu apvienība

Research

Teachers' Opinion on Qualities of Homeschooled Children and Homeschooling Families



Lalvia, 2020

About research

Teachers' Opinion on Qualities of Homeschooled Children and Homeschooling Families

In December 2020, Ģimeņu skolu apvienība carried out the research “Teachers’ Opinion on Qualities of Homeschooled Children and Homeschooling Families”. The teachers who have regularly or periodically collaborated with the homeschooled children – school, music/art/sport school and interest-related education teachers – were asked to participate in the research. The aim of the research was to find out the opinion and observations of these teachers regarding the following:

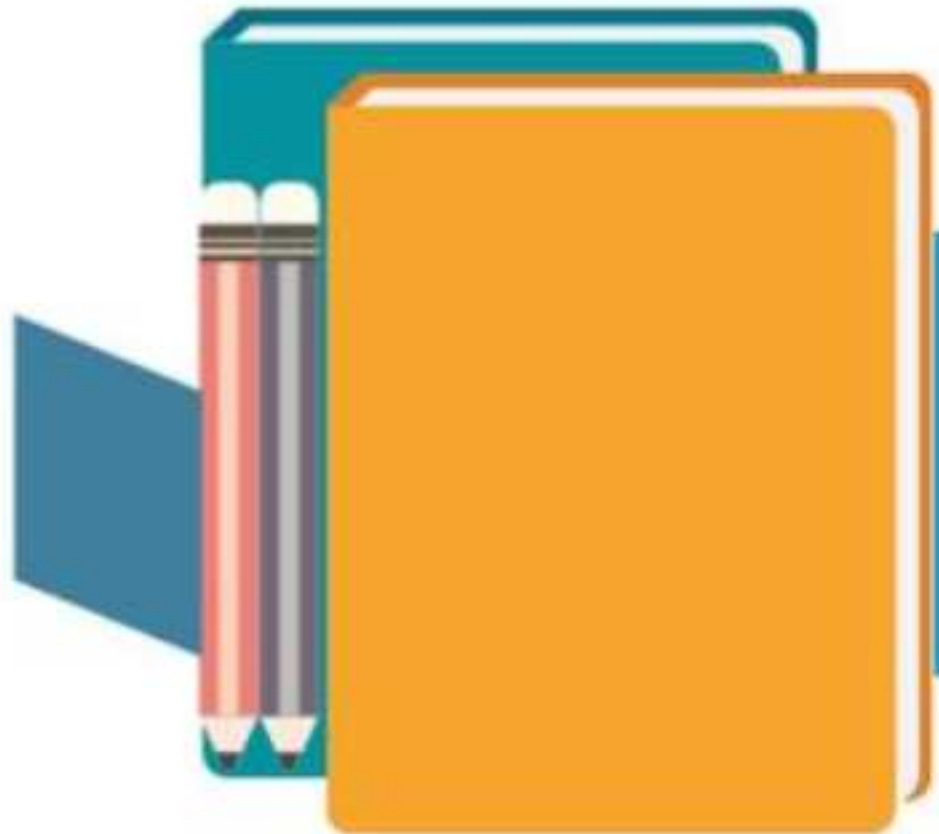
- 1) the homeschooled children’s skills and weaknesses;
- 2) examination results;
- 3) parents’ participation in the children’s educational process;
- 4) recommendations on which families should choose homeschooling for their children and which families should better not choose it.

In total, 56 teachers responded and completed the electronic questionnaire.

Ģimeņu skolu apvienība express sincere gratitude to the teachers who participated in the research and completed the questionnaire!

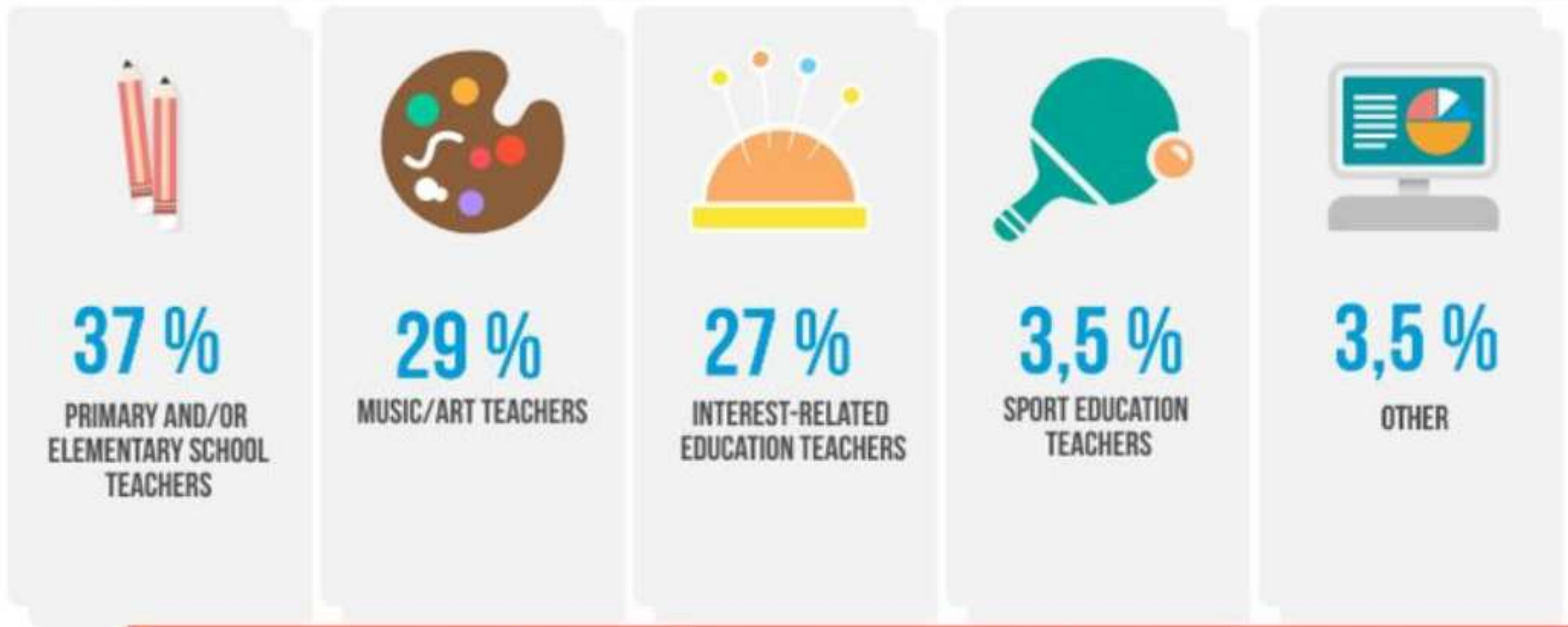
*The questionnaire was prepared
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*The results were analysed and summarised
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Vizual part: Dana Al Akhali*



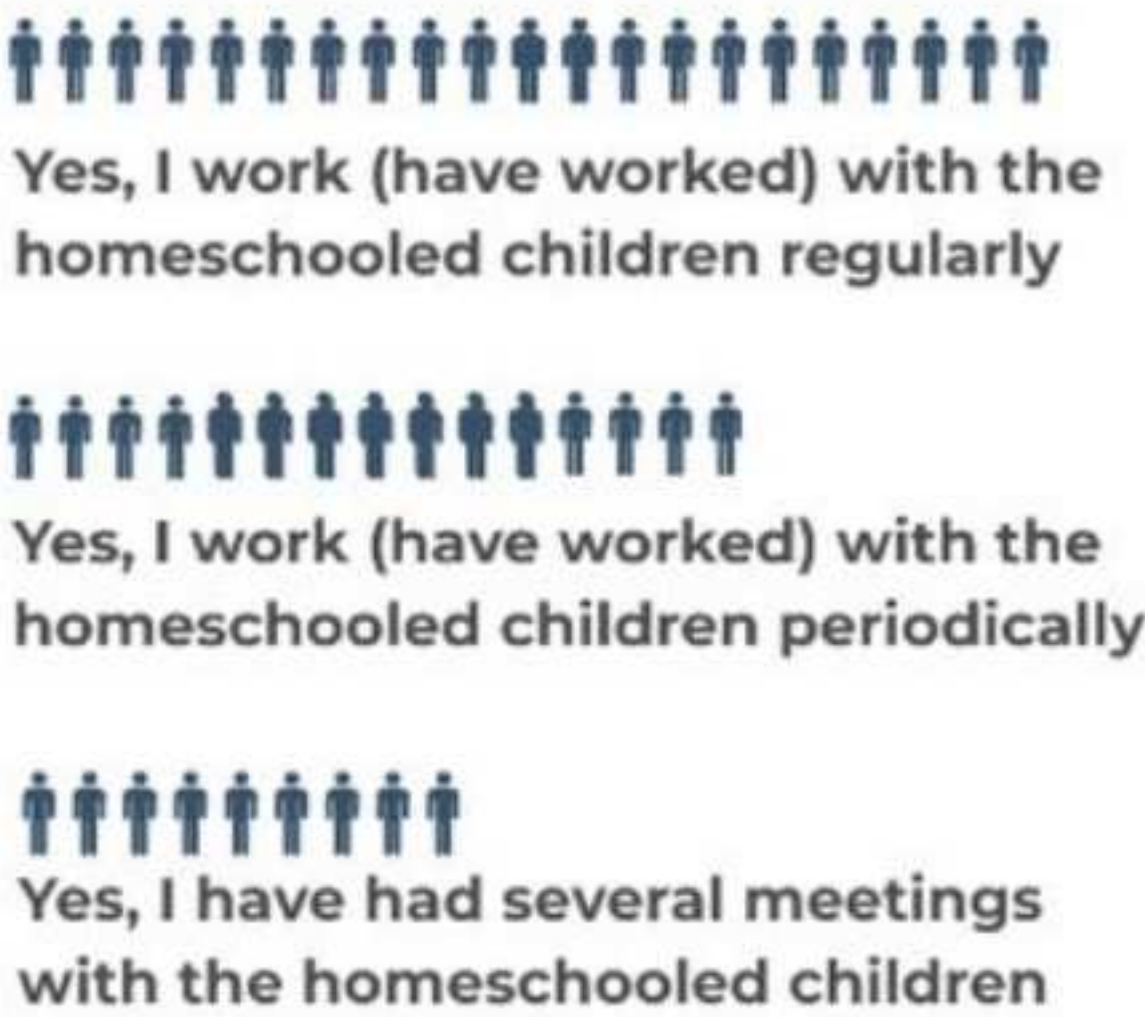
TEACHERS' OPINION ON QUALITIES OF
HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN AND
HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

56 TEACHERS RESPONDED AND COMPLETED THE ELECTRONIC QUESTIONNAIRE



CONTACT WITH HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

AS A TEACHER, HAVE YOU EVER HAD A DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE
HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES?



RESPONDENTS HAVE MET IN THEIR PRACTICE —
FROM ONE FAMILY UP TO 40 FAMILIES





TEACHERS' OPINION ON QUALITIES OF HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN AND HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

SKILLS OF THE HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN

WHAT KIND OF SKILLS HAVE YOU OBSERVED IN THE HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN?



MOST FREQUENTLY THE TEACHERS MENTIONED THAT THE CHILDREN ARE..



calm, well balanced, helpful, their communication with the teachers and peers is positive (kind and polite), the homeschooled children have creative ideas and problem-solving approaches, the children are creative, they want to gain knowledge and to learn something new. Several teachers mentioned that the homeschooled children have wide knowledge and interest, including non-standard thinking.

SOME QUOTATIONS FROM THE TEACHERS' ANSWERS REGARDING THE HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN'S SKILLS:

"I have observed metacognitive learning skills; the skill to critically evaluate their knowledge and learning process; the skill to recognize their deepest interests; the skill to substantiate their opinion; problem-solving skills"

"Ability to concentrate, understand quickly, are well-disciplined, creative, have wide knowledge and interest, are not afraid to express their opinion, are very harmonious, well-balanced children, friendly, open, secure, confident, respectful to others."

"Just like full-time schoolchildren, the homeschooled children are also different. Some of them have better developed reading skills, writing skills, some other children – calculation skills, while others like to express themselves creatively – painting or making something. The homeschooling families travel quite often, go to concerts, creative workshops; therefore, these children have wider knowledge and interests."

"The homeschooled children are different too: there are very independent, strong personalities who feel safe in society, are able to convince, and there are also quiet children who find it difficult to learn, fit in with the classmates and who benefit from individual learning at their own pace."



TEACHERS' OPINION ON QUALITIES OF HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN AND HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

WEAKNESSES OF THE HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN

WHAT KIND OF WEAKNESSES HAVE YOU OBSERVED IN THE HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN?



SOME QUOTATIONS FROM THE TEACHERS' ANSWERS REGARDING THE HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN'S

"Probably the same as in any other children. Children are children. Much more significant influence of the parents and family culture."

"I have not found any specific weaknesses that are particularly characteristic of the homeschooled children. If a child has any problems, they should not be attributed to the homeschooling process, but, for example, to health issues or situation in the family."

"I have not observed any weaknesses, I have rather observed weaknesses in the children who attend school, the schoolchildren are often tired, cannot concentrate, do not hear what the teacher says, their discipline is poor. The homeschooled children are incomparably more harmonious, healthier, more well-balanced than the schoolchildren."

"It is more difficult for them to understand that the teacher must work with other children too."

"If a child is not interested in a language, they will acquire the rules of the language and spelling much later than it should be according to the standard. The same happens in other subjects if they are not interested."



TEACHERS' OPINION ON QUALITIES OF HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN AND HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

EXAMINATION

HOW DO THE HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN'S EXAMINATION RESULTS DIFFER FROM THE RESULTS OF THE CHILDREN WHO LEARN AT SCHOOL?*



22

Are better



12

Do not differ



*Assessed only by the teachers who are involved in the examination process



It has been observed that the homeschooled children have higher motivation for learning and wish to learn, as well as thirst for knowledge that does not disappear also during the further school years (also more positive and responsible attitude towards learning and diligence). Peacefulness, inner harmony, less anxiety (also steadiness and balance) have also been observed in the homeschooled children.

HOMESCHOOLING PARENTS

HOW THE HOMESCHOOLING PARENTS DIFFER FROM THE PARENTS OF THE FULL-TIME SCHOOLCHILDREN?



7

GREATER INTEREST IN THE CHILD'S EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT. GREATER SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, BETTER COMMUNICATION SKILLS



13

DO NOT FIND ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES



2

IS MORE DIFFICULT TO COMMUNICATE BECAUSE THEY THINK THAT THEY KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN

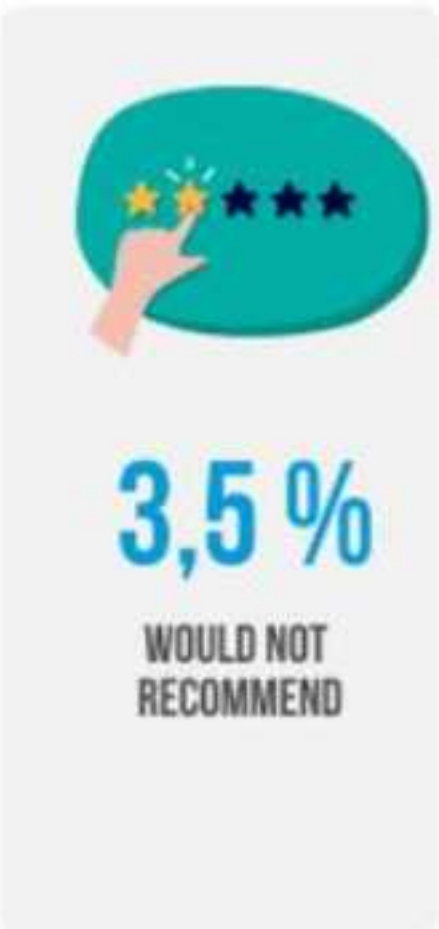
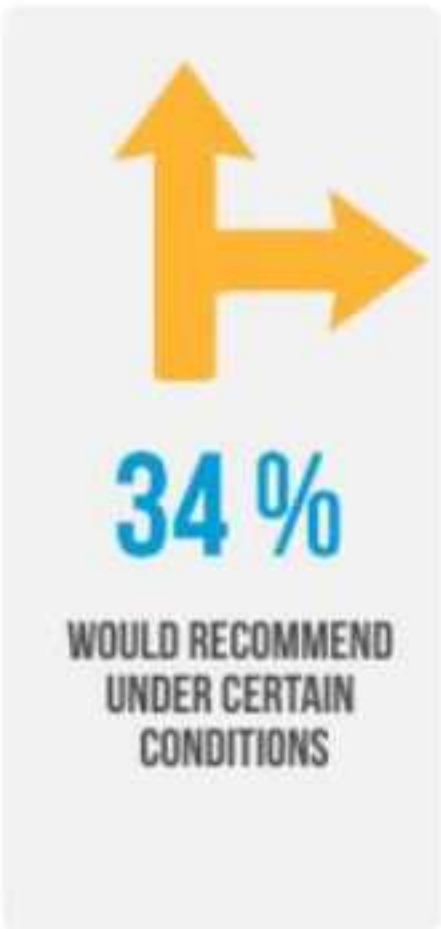




TEACHERS' OPINION ON QUALITIES OF HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN AND HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

HOMESCHOOLING

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND HOMESCHOOLING TO FAMILIES?



TEACHERS' ANSWERS

THE POSITIVE ASPECTS TO RECOMMEND HOMESCHOOLING:

opportunity to provide an individual approach to the children;
opportunity to develop the children's talents and individuality;
flexibility and freedom in choosing the form of education, syllabus and schedule;
suitable for children with learning problems;
opportunity for the children who have suffered from mobbing at full-time school;
the children learn in a more peaceful environment without so many external irritations and mental pollution caused by many personalities;
opportunity to spend more time in fresh air;
learn in practice – implementation of the competence-based approach;
opportunity to improve communication skills with people of different ages.

SOME QUOTATIONS FROM THE TEACHERS' ANSWERS REGARDING THE REASONS WHY THEY WOULD RECOMMEND HOMESCHOOLING TO FAMILIES:

"Yes, I would recommend homeschooling because I work in pedagogy exactly individually for more than 30 years and I see that this is the best approach for children that develops the child's abilities and has the best results in perspective. It would be the best individualized approach."

"Certainly, that is more harmonious and natural. The parents can follow their and their child's feelings when and how to learn. It is possible to spend more time together and outdoors. The children acquire social skills faster, not just theory. They grow up calm, harmonious and learn."

"Yes, especially during this time when a teacher must combine contact lessons with distance learning, each family that takes greater responsibility for the learning process of their child makes bigger contribution to their future and can facilitate the teachers' work."

THE CONDITIONS WERE POINTED OUT FOR RECOMMENDING HOMESCHOOLING:

there is at least one parent who supports the child;
the families have time and financial resources;
the parents are educated and want to develop and learn the unknown;
there is an appropriate environment;
the child socializes through extracurricular activities and sport lessons;
there is communication with other homeschooling families;
for the children who do sports or have other talents;
for the children who are not sociable and if there are problems with communication;
the child finds it difficult to learn in a big group.

THE RESPONDENTS WOULD NOT RECOMMEND HOMESCHOOLING TO THE FAMILIES:

who do not want to or cannot participate in the teaching process;
who can not provide educational environment;
the parents do not have the necessary competences; the parents are emotionally unstable;
the parents have addictions, disadvantageous families;
if there is one child in the family;
if the child truly wants regular communication with peers;
if the children feel good at school and accept its order naturally;
if the children are active.

The research results

The research results show that homeschooling can have good results in harmonious development of the child's personality, the individual approach facilitates development of both very talented children and children with learning problems. The homeschooled children's examination results do not significantly differ from or are better than the results of the children who learn at school. Furthermore, homeschooling is favoured if the parents are ready to participate in the teaching process, they have the necessary competences, and if an appropriate educational environment is provided and the children socialize with other homeschooling families and through interest-based education, music, art, sport lessons.