



Use of E-Blocks inclusive software for reading, writing and basic maths concepts and of Troc@s, a platform to help develop communication skills for pupils with autism

The context for the use of ICT for Inclusion

The activities performed with E-Blocks Table take place in the ICT Resources Centre for Special Needs in Setúbal with pupils with special needs.

The intervention aims to develop maths, Portuguese and English competences.

Another project, Troc@s, consists of a multimedia platform for the development of communication competences among children with autism spectrum disorders.

The platform has a motivating interface, is easy to configure, user-friendly, easy to install and can be adapted to severe disabilities (cognitive, linguistic and social), to school level and to pupil age.

The policy context

The following educational policies promote the use of ICT:

- Decree Law 3/2008, article 16, paragraph f) and article 22
- Axis 2 of the National Plan for the Integration of People with Disabilities (PAIPDI)
- National Strategy for Disability (ENDEF).

The use of ICT

ICT is particularly effective when embedded in the curriculum. ICT can be a highly supportive and effective way for pupils to learn, serving to reinforce, anticipate and diversify teaching and learning strategies.

Key outcomes and benefits

E-Blocks software is inclusive and helps to extend learning experiences, as well as facilitating writing, reading and basic maths skills. It promotes peer interaction and keeps pupils involved in tasks.

The Troc@s platform helps to develop communication skills among pupils with autism spectrum disorders, as well as any pupils with communication difficulties. We are collaborating on and testing the platform.

Main challenges and obstacles

The main challenge to ICT use continues to be teachers and technical staff, because there are a lot of applications and it takes time to explore and become conversant with them in order to feel confident using them with pupils. Training can help teachers and staff to overcome anxiety and gain self-confidence.

Additional information

<http://www.eblocks.net/en/principal/index.php>

<http://www.mytrocas.net/>

<http://youtu.be/0cK5FR9wMyA>

Setúbal ICT Resources Centre for Special Needs website and contacts:
<http://crticsetubal.webnode.com/>