



Hi Everyone

An open letter addressed to our Staff, Parents, Legal Guardians and our beautiful children

Today, is my last message as Chairperson of the Board of FES. It is with deep sorrow that I have to say goodbye, as I was blessed to work with beautiful people. I also met wonderful and extraordinary parents, and special, remarkable children .

The FES has been a growing and rewarding journey where I had the opportunity to learn new things each day. I heartily thank **Minister Evarist Bartolo** for investing his trust in me, and I wish **Minister Owen Bonnici** all the best in his journey within the education system. I am sure that you will all continue to blossom and make a difference in our children's lives. So here is my goodbye to you all .

A special thanks goes to **Dr. Frank Fabri, Permanent Secretary, and all the FES Board Members** who have accompanied me in this journey. Thank you all for your support throughout. Of course, I cannot not thank ALL FES staff and management for their hard work and commitment. A heartfelt thanks goes to our **CEO Mr. Dermot Galea**, who has been the pioneer in getting FES to the success it reached nowadays. Thank you Dermot, for your hard work and for the kindness and integrity you put in it. It is truly admired.

Life is full of hellos and goodbyes. This is the time I say goodbye to you. I will keep you in my heart and cherish you along the way. Let us continue making a difference in our children's lives.

Stay safe and always put our children first.

Love always,

Elena

Farewell from our board members....

Dear Elena,

As your term as Chairperson has recently come to an end, on behalf of the Board I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and commitment in building and growing the Foundation of Education Services to what it is today.

Over the last three years, your leadership has been characterized by innovative ideas and strategic thinking for the benefit of FES. Your input has helped in building a growing team of committed employees, enhancing the quality and improving the financial stability of the foundation. Thus leaving a better organization for those who follow you.

It was great pleasure for all of us to work with you and we would like thank you once again for your dedication and the great job you have accomplished in your three year term as Chairperson.

Whilst hoping that we will have the opportunity to meet again, we wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

Marcon Cassar
Board Secretary & Member

Farewell from C.E.O. Management & staff....

Dear Elena,

I would like to thank Elena for her input during these three years as chairperson of the Foundation for Educational Services. Her guidance helped in the development of new policies, in particular related to social cases. Her belief in social inclusion helped a lot of cases to be tackled and given the service they deserve.

Elena was also instrumental in the restructuring of the FES to be in a position to cater for the ever-growing services. She gave a lot of importance to teamwork both at board level and also at management level. On behalf of all the staff at FES I would like to wish her all the best for the future and once again thank her for the contribution she gave which has clearly left its mark.

Dermot Galea
CEO

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES....

Our country at the moment is passing through a very trying time, due to COVID-19. People are worried of an uncertain future, when and how this pandemic will be over, but where there is life there is hope.

Therefore, whilst we stay safe at home, everyone is looking forward to resume the daily 'normal life' of school, work, meeting friends and loved ones.


The Foundation for Educational Services has not stopped working and most of the staff is working remotely from the safety of our home whilst continuing to serve our parents/guardians to the best that we can.

We have gone online!

To this aim, we are working tirelessly to remain in touch with the children through the provision of online activities aimed at children attending both the Childcare and the Klabb 3-16 Centres.

We have recently set up new Facebook pages of all of our Childcare Centres, and these are currently being updated daily with activities for both babies and toddlers. These communication platforms are being appreciated by the parents of our service users, as evidenced by their glowing reviews. We can only be thankful!


Children who are from 3 years upwards can also benefit from a bank of non-formal educational activities, by accessing the FES website. An activity for Early Years and an activity for Primary are being uploaded daily.



Klabb 3-16 Activities are Online for Early Years and Primary

The next section provides a glimpse into what one can find in these banks of resources. Moreover, further developments are in the pipeline, to make sure that the changing needs required for these changing times are met to the best of our abilities. We shall be keeping our service users and the general public updated with new daily activities on our pages. Parents, guardians, and the general public are invited to remain abreast with our latest news by visiting our [website](#) and FB.

Please contact us should you need further information.



Our online activities

Early Years



Primary Years



Involve your child in this step and encourage your child to help mixing the pasta using hands and the

Talk to the child all the time about what you are doing, the colours you are adding.

Place the pasta in a large container on the floor.

Encourage them to touch the pasta and explore it. Talk to the child while he is exploring the pasta by singing colour nursery rhymes for example.



Bumper Car Physical Activity/Rule Play

Movement, self-expression, focus and concentration

Each child will step into a hoop and hold it at waist level. If hoops are not available, one can use a long piece of string held up at the ends to form a circle and hold out at waist level.

The hoops on the string will be their 'car' and they should not bump anyone else's.



BUILDING A RAFT



ACTIVITY FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN:
 Building a Raft (Science/Craft)

Objectives: recycling, exploration, testing, hypothesis, observation

A raft is a floating platform made from large pieces of cardboard or other buoyant materials tied together. It is floated in water because a body immersed in a fluid is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the displaced fluid.

Look up information about Archimedes' principle, to learn more about the law of upthrust!

In this experiment, we will be creating a raft that floats from empty water bottles. This will be a small raft to float in your bathtub, but big rafts may be used at school to demonstrate a very real and important concept around on water.

Materials:

- 2 empty plastic bottles (500ml)
- 1 water bottle or cardboard
- Sticky tape
- Scissors

Method:

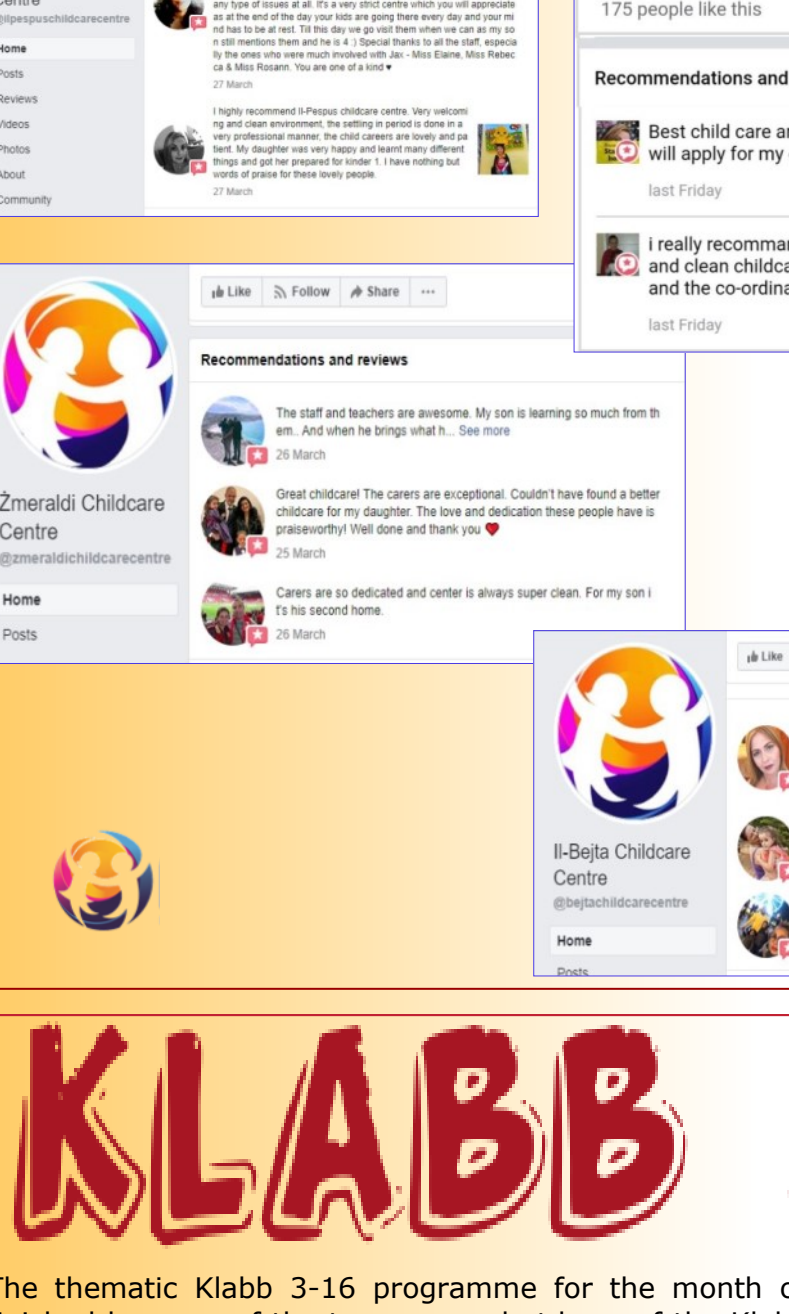
Cut the cardboard into a 25cm x 15cm rectangle

Spend a day in our centres

Childcare

The following are some of the activities that took place at the different FES Childcare Centres before our temporary closure on 12th March 2020 due to the COVID-19.

Carnival Party



Žmeraldi

The fun of pretend play, combined with the joy of dressing up for a Carnival party. Once the costume is on, nothing can stop the little ones from being heroes or cute wild animals.

It-Tbissima

Teach a fun to fish....

This game goes beyond just the satisfaction of catching the fish. It also helps the children to explore and build motor strength and coordination, hand/eye coordination, cognitive thinking, teamwork and problem solving skills.



Il-Pespus

One of the moving on celebrations, where parents were invited to share their children's 'graduation' from childcare.

One couldn't but experience the excitement and emotion as these little butterflies were taking off on their new journey



Il-Bejta

Erupting Lemon Volcanoes

The little ones experienced a science experiment activity. The children could see the effect and reaction of a lemon when mixed with food colouring, dishwashing soap and bicarbonate of soda.

The children enjoyed seeing the different colours when the lemon was erupting.

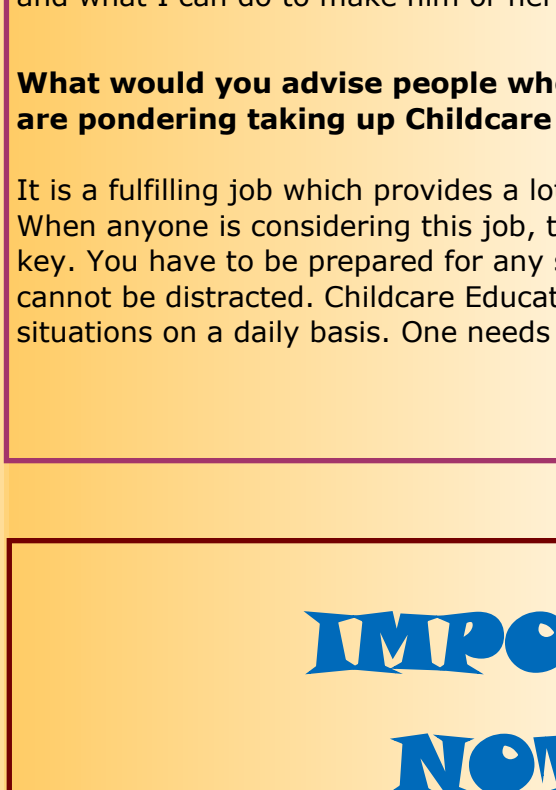
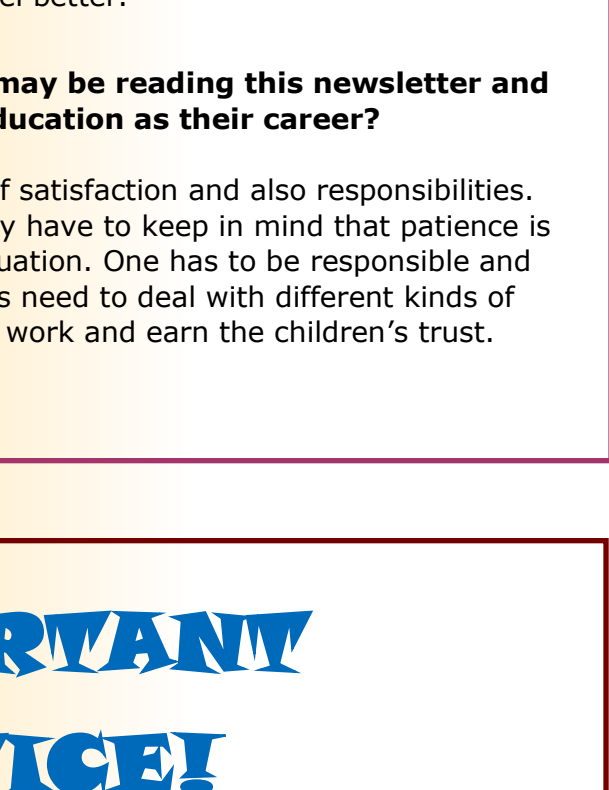


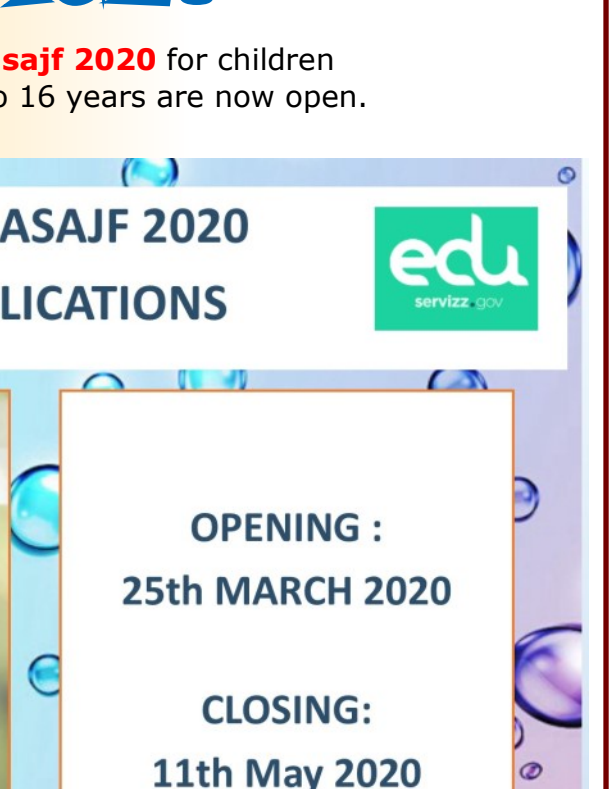
And while we are currently communicating online to keep everyone safe, parents are following the activities that we are posting on our Facebook pages, and also implementing them with the children in their homes.

Here is the proof, and we love it @



We appreciate your appreciation



KLABB 3-16


The thematic Klabb 3-16 programme for the month of March 2020 could not be finished because of the temporary shutdown of the Klabb 3-16 service. However the remaining activities were uploaded online on our social media platform and website on a daily basis.

This practice is still ongoing and there are two activities daily; one for the Early Years and the other one for Primary Children. These are fun activities that can be done at home along with parents and guardians.

In the meantime, below are two of the activities which were carried out in the centres prior to 12th March 2020.


Mary Had a Little Lamb Activity

This activity was based on the nursery rhyme, and the learning objectives of literacy, self expression, creativity and teamwork. The children created small lambs with cotton wool, by tracing out little lambs and gluing cotton to the lambs.

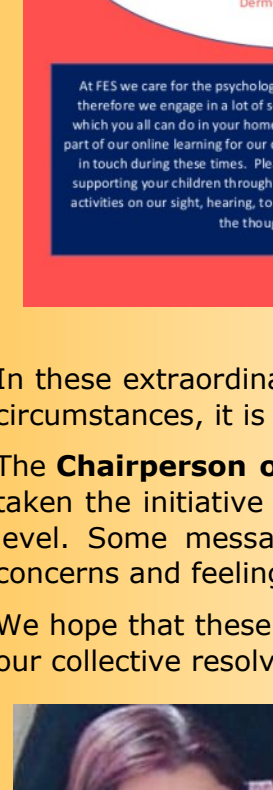


Fonzu I-Fenek Activity

This activity focused on healthy eating. The children watched a short clip of Fonzu I-Fenek, followed by the creation of a carrot, apple, and peanut butter rabbit.



2 mins with 2 of our employees...



Name : Kimberly Zammit Shead
Role : Playworker at Klabb 3-16 Naxxar
How long have you been working at Klabb 3-16?

I started with FES in summer 2017 during Skolasajf, and have not looked back since then. I have worked as a Child Support Worker and as a Playworker and I love both roles.

This work experience has taught me a lot. It has also helped me in my studies and my eventual future profession as a nurse, because I am learning to communicate with all children of different ages and with different educational needs.

What are 3 words that you would use to describe your role?

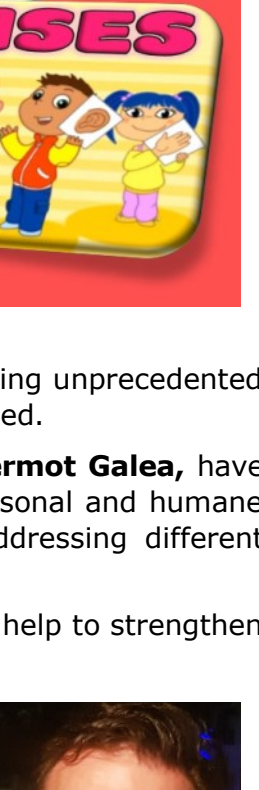
I would describe it as fulfilling, challenging and innovative.

What are the challenges and satisfaction gained from your role?

The satisfaction of this role is that I get to see the children enjoying the activities that were prepared for them. I also get to see the improvement of each and every child which is very satisfactory. The biggest challenge is maintaining discipline.

What are the essential ingredients to make Klabb 3-16 a serene hub of activities?

An essential ingredient is teamwork between the staff and students in order to be more united. It is also important to organise fun activities which children will love to do and which are stress-free, considering the long hours that the students spend at school.



Name : Roberta Portelli
Role : Childcare Educator at Il-Ferroviija, Childcare Centre
How long have you been working at Il-Ferroviija Childcare center?

I have been working at Il-Ferroviija Childcare Centre for 2 years.

What is your biggest satisfaction working with young children?

I love working with young children. They are innocent and I feel satisfied because since their early years are spent with us, I see their process and development. I am also satisfied that I manage to communicate well with children who have a challenging behaviour. Though some children are not verbal, I understand what they are thinking and feeling.

What are the challenges you face on a daily basis?

One of the challenges I face is making sure that the children are all the time feeling well and that they eat all the food that is provided from home. Moreover, when a child is unhappy and cries, it is up to me to see why the child is unhappy and what I can do to make him or her feel better.

What would you advise people who may be reading this newsletter and are pondering taking up Childcare Education as their career?

It is a fulfilling job which provides a lot of satisfaction and also responsibilities. When anyone is considering this job, they have to keep in mind that patience is key. You have to be prepared for any situation. One has to be responsible and cannot be distracted. Childcare Educators need to deal with different kinds of situations on a daily basis. One needs to work and earn the children's trust.

Understanding each other



Reflex and Take Action
 Dermot and Elena speak about children from the Covid-19 and therapist perspective during the times of Covid-19

Being a parent during these times is very difficult and...
 I started with FES in summer 2017 during Skolasajf, and have not looked back since then. I have worked as a Child Support Worker and as a Playworker and I love both roles.

These days a psychologist for more than 10 years... These words with children and adults from different backgrounds. During this time of Covid-19, children are feeling confused, nervous and might have lots of questions. It is important that as much as possible we are honest and explain to them what is happening always according to their age level.

What helps mostly during difficult times, is supporting children in their sensory, sensory-motor, and cognitive. This is a prerequisite for children to come into contact emotionally with themselves. Supporting children through sensory work will support them in processing the difficult times we find ourselves in.

5 SENSES



In these extraordinary times, where we are finding ourselves facing unprecedented circumstances, it is easy to feel anxious and for nerves to be frayed.

The **Chairperson of FES, Ms Elena Borg**, and the **CEO Mr Dermot Galea**, have taken the initiative of connecting with our clients on a more personal and humane level. Some messages were uploaded on the [FES website](#), addressing different concerns and feelings that are becoming the norm in our lives.

We hope that these few words of encouragement and advice will help to strengthen our collective resolve to continue on a united path.



We invite you to drop in at any time.



FROM OUR NOTICEBOARD

Courses

Child Support Workers Course - (Deadline: 30th April 2020)

Playworkers Development Course - (Deadline: 30th April 2020)

Vacancies

Klabb 3-16 — Deadline: 13th April 2020

Tutors (part-time) Klabb 3-16

Playworker Klabb 3-16

Child Support Worker Klabb 3-16

Skolasajf Calls

Playworker - (for applicants who wish to apply, but at the moment are not 18 years of age, however will turn 18 years before 6th July 2020) (Deadline: 30th April 2020)

Malta Skolasajf vacancies—Deadline: Monday 4th May at noon

Playworker (3rd Call)

Child Support Worker (3rd Call)

Centre Coordinators (3rd Call)

Child Support Workers Resource Centres (3rd Call)

Sports Playworkers (3rd Call)

Gozo Skolasajf vacancies—Deadline: Thursday 30th April 2020

Playworker (3rd Call Gozo)

Sports Playworkers (3rd Call Gozo)

Playworkers with Extra Responsibilities (3rd Call Gozo)

Child Support Workers Resource Centres (3rd Call Gozo)

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