



Proiect cofinanțat din Programul Operațional Capital Uman 2014-2020

Axa prioritară 6: *Educație și competențe*

Prioritatea de investiții: 10.i

Obiective specifice: 6.4, 6.6

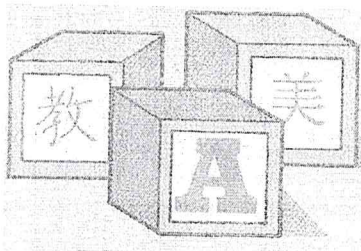
Titlu proiect: *“Acces la programe de educație și formare profesională pentru tinerii și adulții din județul Dolj care au părăsit timpuriu școala (II)”*

Cod SMIS 2014+: 135712

## Comparatively Speaking

### WHAT KIDS SHOULD LEARN IN PRESCHOOL

Survey based on responses from 300 Japanese, 240 Chinese, and 210 American preschool teachers, administrators, parents, and child-development specialists.



	JAPAN	CHINA	U.S.
Perseverance	2%	13%	3%
Cooperation	30%	37%	32%
Concern for others	31%	4%	5%
Creativity	9%	17%	6%
Reading and math skills	0%	6%	1%
Self-confidence	11%	6%	34%
Art, music, and dance	0.3%	1%	1%
Communication skills	1%	4%	8%
Physical skills	0.3%	1%	1%
Health and hygiene	14%	11%	1%
Gentleness	0%	0%	0%

#### Discussion

What do you think children should learn in preschool? Rank five things from the list above. What else should kids learn in preschool?



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Ann: Would you rather send your children to a public or a private school?

Tom: Mmm, I'd rather send them to a public school, I think.

Ann: Oh, why?

Tom: Well, it's cheaper for one. thing ...

Ann: Yes, but do you think the teachers are as good in the public schools?

Tom: Oh, yeah, I went to a public high school, and I had very good teachers there.

TOM: What kind of school did you go to, Ann?

ANN: Well, I ... went to a public primary school and then to a private high school.

TOM: So ... which do you think is better?

ANN: Actually, I prefer private schools because of the smaller classes ... and usually you have a wider choice of subjects.

TOM: Yeah, I suppose that's true.

ANN: And then there are usually better sports facilities. For example, the school I went to had a swimming pool and a huge gym.

TOM: Yeah ... well, the public high school I went to had great sports facilities. Besides, private schools are really expensive.

ANN: Yeah, but I think they're worth it.

TOM: I don't know. I think you have to judge every school individually, whether it's public or private.

ANN: That may be true ... but children generally get a better, more ... well-rounded education in a private school.

TOM: Maybe, but I'm not totally convinced. By the way, Ann, were you on the debating team in high school?

ANN: I sure was! I was the captain!



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**2 Does Ann prefer public or private schools? Why?**

**3 Which do you prefer, public or private schools? Have a conversation like the one above using your own information.**

**1. GRAMMAR FOCUS: *Would rather and prefer***

Would you **rather** send your children to a public or a private school?

I'd **rather** send them to a public school because it's cheaper.

Do you **prefer teaching** children or adults?

I **prefer** adults because they are easier to teach.

Complete these questions with the correct form: "Would you rather ... ?" or "Do you prefer ... ?"

**2. PERSONAL REFERENCES**

**1 Pair work Take turns asking these questions. Give reasons for your answers.**

a. Would you rather live in the city or the suburbs?

- a) .....going to a daytime or an evening class?
- b) .....studying in a class or with a private tutor?
- c) .....study English in Australia or Canada?
- d) .....go to a community college or a university?
- e) .....major in the humanities or the sciences?

b. Do you prefer traveling by air, train, or bus?

c. Would you rather work for someone else or be self-employed?

d. Do you prefer reading novels, newspapers, or magazines?



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**2 Now write questions about these topics. Then take turns asking your questions in group.**

- |         |          |        |        |
|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| games   | marriage | music  | travel |
| hobbies | movies   | sports | work   |

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**3. READING**

1 Rita is talking to a friend. What kind of work would she prefer?

- a) ..... work for the government  
    ... work for a company
- b) .....work in an office  
    ..... get a job that involves travel
- c) ..... earn a salary  
    .... work for a commission

MAN: Have you thought about what you want to do after you graduate, Rita?

RITA: Oh, yeah. I think about it all the time. I've been looking for some jobs in the newspaper, but I really need to start interviewing soon.

MAN: You know, I've heard there're some really good jobs in the government. Those jobs are pretty secure and ... and you get excellent medical benefits.

RITA: Yeah, but I'd rather not work for the government. Those jobs seem so boring and the salaries are low. I'd prefer to find an interesting company to work for - where I could work on my own ...

MAN: Uh-huh ...

RITA: You know, be creative and really use my skills.



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MAN: Well, what about something like saleswork?

You could be independent, creative ...

RITA: Well, yeah, I've thought of that ... and I really like the idea. I bet I could meet lots of different people and ...

MAN: Sure!

RITA: ... do some traveling and maybe get out of the office.

MAN: Yeah, sounds like it's right up your alley! I wonder how much money you can make in sales, though. Do you have any idea what starting salaries are like?

RITA: Mmm, I don't know ... but, actually, I think I'd rather be on commission ...

MAN: Oh?

RITA: ... so that way I'd get paid according to how successful I am.

MAN: Ah?

RITA: I could make much more money that way. I think I'd prefer that to getting a salary.

MAN: Well, Rita, you've sold me! I think you've got a great future in sales.

2 Now read again. What reasons does Rita give for her choices?

#### 4. WORD POWER: Education

1. *Pair work.* Write these words on the chart below.

botany

kindergarten

ceramics

physics

dressmaking

literature

philosophy

preschool

<i>Schools</i>	<i>Arts and crafts</i>	<i>Humanities</i>	<i>Sciences</i>



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## 2. Now add three more words to each category.

### 5. CONVERSATION

#### Read

B: Well, most kids enter when they're eleven. Then all students continue till they're sixteen, and many continue until they're eighteen.

A: Is the education system in Britain the same as in the United States, Alex?

B: Well, it's fairly similar, but in most of the country we don't have separate junior and senior high schools. We just have secondary schools.

A: Oh? And how old are children when they enter secondary school?

## 2. Now read the rest of the conversation and take notes. What does Alex say about public schools in Britain.

WOMAN: Oh, really? They continue till they're eighteen. And so students take exams before they graduate?

ALEX: Yes, many take the GCSE around the age of fifteen or sixteen.

WOMAN: GCSE? What does that mean?

ALEX: Well, GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Students usually take exams in five to eight subjects in order to get the certificate.

WOMAN: Oh. And what about students who continue in school till they're eighteen? What exams do they take?

ALEX: They take "A" levels - the "A" stands for "advanced."

WOMAN: I see. And do students have to take a certain number of "A" levels?

ALEX: Well, it depends. Students who want to go to university usually need to take three "A" levels, although some students take only two.

WOMAN: And what subjects do they take the exams in?

ALEX: Well, most students specialize and take "A" levels in related subjects, either in science, for example, or in subjects in the arts.



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WOMAN: Mmm. How are the "A" levels graded? ALEX: They're graded by letter - A through E mean "pass" and F means "fail." Pupils who want to go to a university mostly need high marks.

WOMAN: Huh! But what happens if a student doesn't do well the first time? Can students take "A" level exams again and try and improve their grades?

ALEX: Absolutely! Some take them again and again ... for years!

WOMAN: Gosh! And, by the way, Alex, does Britain have both public and private schools?

ALEX: Yes. Most parents send their children to "state" schools, which are free. They're similar to public schools in the U.S.

WOMAN: And what about private schools in Britain? ALEX: Well, it's a bit confusing, really. Private schools are known as "public" schools in Britain. For centuries, public schools were the only ones available. Then the government started free education.

WOMAN: I see.

ALEX: Some public schools are rather expensive and not many parents can afford them. The pupils wear uniforms, and they often live at school, too.

WOMAN: Tell me, Alex, did *you* go to public school? ALEX: Ah-hah! I'll let you guess!

## 6. GRAMMAR FOCUS: Quantifiers

**All** students go to school till they are sixteen.

**Most** (students) study math. **Many** (students) take a foreign language in high school.

**A lot of** colleges have dorms.

**Some** colleges are very expensive.

**Few** schools have Saturday classes.

**A few** colleges teach German.

**Both** American **and** British students take national exams.

**Neither** teachers **nor** students wear uniforms.



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**Not all** primary schools teach foreign languages.

**Not many** children like homework.

No colleges provide free lunches.

**None** of the private schools is cheap.

**1 Complete these statements about your city (or town) or country and then compare with a partner.**

- a. In my country, most students ...
- b. Both public and private schools ....
- c. A lot of young people these days ...
- d. Not many stores ...
- e. Most banks ...
- f. Few factories ...
- g. All government employees ...

**2. Now make eight statements using phrases from the grammar box.**

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**7. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

**1 Group work Can you find three similarities and three differences between:**

- a) being a student and working full-time?
- b) living in a large city and in a small town?



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c) working for yourself and for someone else?

A: I think that being a student and working fulltime have a lot in common. For one thing, most students ...

B: Well, I agree. They are fairly similar. For example, both ...

C: Actually, I don't think they have much in common because ...

## 8. WRITING: Comparisons

**1 Write about one of the things you discussed in Exercise 6. First make notes about these topics.**

**2 Then use your notes to write a composition with three paragraphs. Start the first paragraph like this:**

*There are several differences between being a student and working full time. First...*

**3 Pair work Exchange compositions. Do you agree with your partner?**

## 9. READING: A day at Dong-feng

Are there preschools or kindergartens in Romania? What kinds of things do children do and learn there?

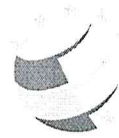
Dong-feng (East Wind) Kindergarten is a preschool run by a city in southwest China. It has 270 three-to six-year-old children and 60 staff members. Three-quarters of Dongfeng's children are day students who attend school from about 8 A.M. to 6 P.M., Monday through Saturday. The others are boarding students who go home only on Wednesday evenings and on week-ends.

On a typical day, school starts at 7:30 A.M. with a breakfast of steamed buns. After breakfast, when the day students arrive, the teachers lead the children in morning exercises followed by a song. Then the children sit down and the teachers hand out wooden blocks.

Ms. Xiang says: "Just pay attention to the picture of the building and build it. We must use our minds, right? Build according to order." The children begin to work. Ms. Wang says: "Keep still! There



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is no need to talk while you are working."

At 10:00 it's time for the children to go to the bathroom. After that, they play a game of tag. At 10:45, it's bath time for the boarding students. Three or four at a time, the children bathe in large tubs. The children return to the classroom, and Ms. Wang drills them in addition and subtraction.

Later, lunch is delivered from the central kitchen. Ms. Xiang reminds the children to eat in silence and not to waste any food. After lunch, it's time to go to the dormitory for a nap. Nap time lasts from noon to 2:30. While the children rest, the teachers catch up on paperwork, eat, and relax in the classroom next door.

After returning to their classroom, the children are taught to recite a story. Then they move outside for some relay races. At 5 P.M., the children have supper - a meal of meat, vegetables, and rice. At 6 P.M., the parents arrive to pick up their children. Inside, the boarders listen to music before getting ready for bed. By 7:45, the children are all in bed, and by 8:00 all are quiet and appear to be asleep.

**2. Group work. Which of these words do you think best describe a day at the preschool?**

- |             |             |        |           |
|-------------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| busy        | carefree    | fun    | organized |
| challenging | disciplined | hectic | relaxing  |

What do you think the children learn at the school? How similar is this preschool to those in your country?

**10. PRACTICE**

**1. Write questions with *would rather* and *prefer* using the cues below.**

a. study      part-time/ full-time

*Would you rather study part-time or full-time?* (or)

*Do you prefer studying part-time or full time?*

b. having a boring job that pays well/ an exciting job that pays less

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c. work for a private company/ the government

.....

d. take a long vacation once a year/ several short vacations each year

.....

e. go to a movie theatre/ watch a video at home

.....

f. drive to work/ take public transportation

.....

**2. Answer these questions and give reasons.**

a. On your day off, do you prefer staying home or going out?

I prefer staying home because .....

b. Would you rather have a dog or a cat as a pet?

.....

c. Do you prefer living in an apartment building or in a house?

.....

d. When you entertain friends, do you invite them over for dinner or take them out to a restaurant?

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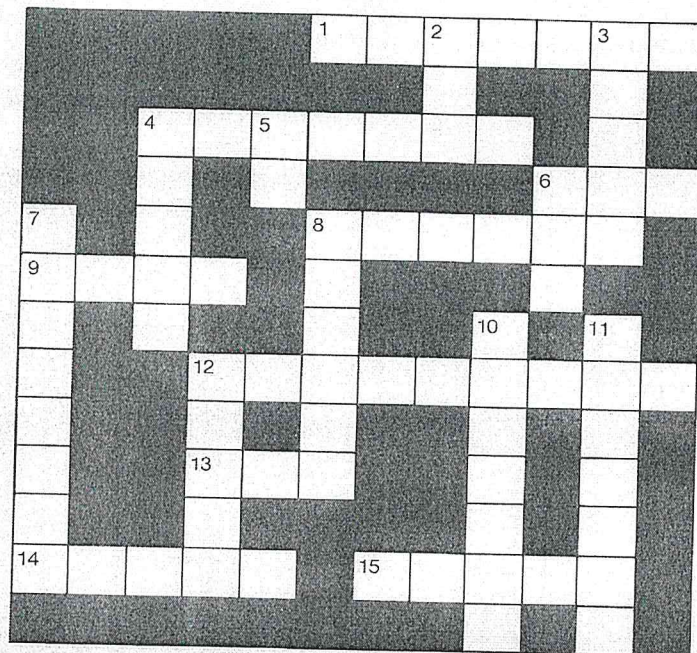
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### 3. Crossword puzzle: Work, school and play



#### Across clues

- 1 Are the British and Canadian education ..... the same?
- 4 Nearly the same
- 6 Repair or mend something
- 8 Opposite of private
- 9 How much can you ..... as a sales manager?
- 12 Not the same
- 13 I speak neither German ..... French.
- 14 What ..... do children play in your country?
- 15 A private teacher

#### Down clues

- 2 Do you enjoy swimming in the ..... ?
- 3 I don't like classical ..... very much. I prefer listening to jazz.
- 4 Soccer is an example of this.
- 5 "I" is to "....." as "he" is to "him."
- 6 Exercise and playing sports will keep you this way after a hard day's work.
- 7 Reading a novel is a good way of .....
- 8 To like something better than something else
- 10 A ..... school usually costs more than a public school.
- 11 At some schools, the students have to wear a .....
- 12 A disco is a good place to do this.



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