

Case study 16

Efe is 11 years old and comes from Turkey. He does not know Bulgarian, but he knows that he will not continue his education in Bulgaria and stubbornly refuses to speak the language. Communication takes place in English, as far as he understands and responds, or through google translator directly in Turkish.

Needs-solutions action plan

Given the difficulty of communicating with Efe in English and the stubbornness with which she refuses to learn Bulgarian, Mrs. ?, his teacher, decides to start learning Bulgarian with Efe using flash cards. Flashcards make learning interesting and enjoyable and help to remember new words, concepts, etc. more easily. They are a fast and effective "offline" way to memorize unfamiliar words from a foreign language.

Interested in this approach, Efe gradually began to become more active and learn new words in Bulgarian. Little by little, the child becomes calmer, more open, tries to communicate with his classmates, although with a mixture of words in English, Bulgarian, Turkish.

In order to be completely sure that everything with the pronunciation of the specific sounds in the Bulgarian language is in order, Mrs. uses a free online tool for the early detection of speech-language pathology in children. Her idea is that if the application detects deviations in the extraction of sounds, Efe will be consulted in time by a speech therapist.

For the introduction of an unknown foreign language, this is a good solution, but it must be upgraded with a tool or tools that not only guarantee the accumulation of vocabulary, but also offer work with grammatical patterns, give ability to combine words into expressions and construct sentences.

Today, language learning in front of the computer is a must-choice for anyone who needs to speak a language quickly, learn the most common phrases and communicate without worries.

Therefore, Ms. ?uses electronic platforms such as Duolingo and Open Culture¹ to dynamize Efe's learning. Like any child of the new technological generation, for Efe, working with a mobile device or computer is something natural, a fact that seems to extinguish part of the reluctance to learn the difficult Bulgarian language.

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¹ Open Culture is a comprehensive platform for culture and education. It offers a rich list of languages, referring visitors to useful sites and books with which they can practice and learn the chosen language.

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The possibility of some independence and working online worked beneficially and Efe began to make progress, although at first the situation seemed like a lost cause.

In such cases, timely and adequate contact with the parents of such children is very useful, because they determine what language will be spoken at home, and for these children "at home" is the only safe haven.