

HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CHILD'S HEALTH IN A COMMUNITY

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At the beginning of the third millennium we find ourselves involved in new children's health issues. Child surrounding environment has strong influence on child's health: ecology issues, inadequate life styles, lack of social adaptation, and new infective and non-infective diseases. We are talking about health issues, which paediatricians primarily oriented to curative medicine cannot successfully solve. It is necessary to develop new strategy of community health promotion based on holistic approach to a child. Paediatrician, who is by vocation child's advocate, should be oriented on promotion of these programs.

In this paper we present programme with holistic and cross-sector approach to child's health in a community. Project Towns and districts – friends of children has taken place in Croatia since 1999. At the beginning under the sponsorship of UNICEF, goal of this comprehensive professional and social action was to motivate and stimulate adults in towns and districts of Croatia to satisfy fully the rights and needs of children as recognized by the UN Convention on Children's Rights. Programme covers all important aspects of child's life: protection and education of children; child in a secure and healthy town/district; children's health; education of children; social welfare for children; sports and culture of children and for children; children's leisure time and recreation; support and help for parents in their care and education of children. At present 54 Croatian towns and districts participate in it.

This is unique project in the world and its realization guarantees holistic approach to child's health in a community.

