

**Vg1 Helse- og oppvekstfag, Vg2 Barne- og ungdomsarbeiderfag**

## **Working with Children**

**Anna, a student from Healthcare, Childhood and Youth Development has a work placement in a nursery school in Wales. She lives with Heather, one of the teachers, and experiences both the workplace and Welsh culture. The teacher prepares her for her first day at Sam Tân Nursery School.**

**Anna:** I am really looking forward to my first day at the nursery school tomorrow. How can I best prepare?

**Heather:** Oh, let me show you some of the activities we are planning. Wednesday is always our language day. Although all our activities are conducted in English, the aim is to introduce some basic Welsh words and phrases into the children's learning as well. So on Wednesdays we sing and listen to nursery rhymes in Welsh.

**Anna:** Welsh? Isn't that English?

**Heather:** No, no! Didn't you notice the names on the road signs coming into town? All our road signs are bilingual. Welsh is a completely different language from English. Wales, for instance, is Cymru / kum'ri/ in Welsh.

**Anna:** Oh, I didn't know. I guess I will have to pay more attention to details in the future.

**Heather:** Well, you will learn some new words and nursery rhymes tomorrow. "Gwen a Mair ac Elin" is on our plan. The song is about three girls who eat a lot

of pudding. A little boy called Benja gets really angry and cries because there is no pudding left for him. The children love this song.

**Anna:** Perhaps I can teach them a Norwegian nursery rhyme?

**Heather:** What a splendid idea. Do you play an instrument?

**Anna:** Yes, I play the guitar....but...well, you probably have one at the center?

**Heather:** We sure do. What is the Norwegian nursery rhyme called?

**Anna:** I was thinking of “Mikkel Rev.” It is about a fox writing ...– not to be confused with video “What Does the Fox Say” – or perhaps that would be a better idea? We could all go crazy singing and dancing to the recording...and we could continue by replacing the fox with rabbits and dragons and...

**Heather:** Well, well, nothing to say about your enthusiasm. Sure glad to have you here for three weeks. The kids will love you.

**Anna:** ...and I was thinking....

**Heather:** Wait. You have not even met the kids yet. Do you know how old they are? 2-5 years old...30 of them, 30 of them. So we need to be very organized and keep them busy. Apart from Welsh nursery rhymes, we have several creative activities tomorrow. Our nursery school stresses the development of creativity, imagination and understanding of the children’s environment.

**Anna:** So how is the day organized?

**Heather:** Some of the children come in early, but we all have breakfast at ten o'clock and afterwards the kids have free play for about an hour, which means that they can circulate between different "stations" choosing whether they want to go outside, draw, paint, read books, build Lego, model clay or other activities. Lunch is served at noon, and afterwards we decide and organize what the kids will be doing, like tomorrow when we have Welsh nursery rhymes and language learning.

**Anna:** Do you take any field trips?

**Heather:** Oh, yes. Once a year we visit St. Fagans, a lovely open air museum. They offer learning opportunities for all age groups. Last year we helped Beti Bwt wash her clothes before the invention of the washing machine, and this year we plan to watch demonstrations of how craft people such as the blacksmith and the weaver work. We bring lunch and enjoy the outdoors.

**Anna:** Sounds like a place I would like to visit before I leave for home.

**Heather:** Oh yes, I have made lots of plans for your leisure time while you are here. I cannot wait to show you the city, the castle and the....

**Anna:** Now, you sound excited....but first and most interesting: Sam Tân Nursery School tomorrow!

**Heather:** Yes, tomorrow. Did you know that Sam Tân actually is Welsh for Fireman Sam? The animation was originally produced in Welsh. Check YouTube, you will find it there.

**Anna:** Already checking....