

**Doc. PhDr. Valentína Trubíniová, CSc.
An Outstanding Slovak Pedagogue***Viola Tamášová**

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Doc. PhDr. Valentína Trubíniová, CSc. is an outstanding personality – the founder of the field of pre-school pedagogy at three Slovak universities. In January, she celebrated her life anniversary – her 80th birthday. She was born on January 6, 1937 in Nová Lehota (a picturesque village near Piešťany). She finished her secondary school studies in 1955 at Pedagogical School for Training Kindergarten Teachers in Modra, where her interest in the issues of pre-school pedagogy, kindergartens and, above all, children has arisen. Then, she graduated from the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava, in the field of Pedagogy with specialization on Pre-School Education (1981). Later, in 1997, she earned a PhD. degree, and in 2003, habilitated in Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education of Comenius University in Bratislava.

In Bratislava, during her professional life, she has tried every job position – from working as a teacher, the director of several kindergartens (Pavlovova, Plátenicka, Teplická), a school inspector in district Bratislava III, a state school inspector at the Ministry of Education, to being a specialist at the Central Institute for Teacher Training (Ústredný ústav pre vzdelávanie učiteľov), where she could make use of all her knowledge and share it with her colleagues as a part of their further education.

As a university teacher at Comenius University in Bratislava, using her conception, she participated in the creation of the field of study Kindergarten Teacher Training, later Pre-School Pedagogy and implemented them at universities in Trnava and Ružomberok as well. Her conception is, to a certain extent, being used at all Slovak faculties of education even nowadays.

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Doc. PhDr. Valentína Trubíniová, CSc. has focused on the fields of management and training kindergarten teachers and delivered courses, e.g. Conceptions and Programs of Pre-School Education; or Management of Kindergartens, for students at several faculties. Her professional orientation is also reflected in her publication activity starting with her dissertation thesis (1997) in which she focused on training educational leaders in pre-school education. In her habilitation thesis (2003), she dealt with the issues of the quality of pre-school education.

Doc. PhDr. Valentína Trubíniová, CSc. is a recognized scientific worker. She has participated in the solution of several VEGA and KEGA projects, among them, the most important are *Predškolská pedagogika – Terminologický a výkladový slovník predškolskej pedagogiky* (*Pre-School Pedagogy – Terminological Dictionary of Pre-School Pedagogy*), 2007 (she is the editor and the author of 160 entries) and the project entitled *Innovations in the Theory of Pre-School Pedagogy in Relation to the State Curriculum for ISCED 0 – Pre-Primary Education*, the outcomes of which are presented in 13 publications.

She significantly contributed to the review of the history of pre-school education in her monographs *The History of Pre-School Pedagogy* (*Volumes I and II*, 2003, 2007). Recently, she has finished her new monograph *Pedagogické aspekty hry v reflexii významných osobností* (*Pedagogical Aspects of Games in Important Personalities' Reflection*). Her latest monograph offers an opportunity to understand the reasons of the historical changes in games and using them in education in the period under review better. She seeks the answers for the following questions: *What is a game? What is the function of games? What is the role of games in children's lives? Why do children play?* It is a wonderful book and I have had the opportunity to be the reviewer of it.

In all her other scientific and scholarly works – textbooks, study materials, books of proceedings, journals, entries in encyclopaedias, etc., Doc. PhDr. Valentína Trubíniová, CSc. deals with the issues of kindergarten management (with an emphasis placed on the innovation of the content of pre-school education), development of games and toys, language education, didactics, communication, children's speech development, children's personality development and happy childhood in family environment.

She has educated hundreds of students – teachers-to-be – and guided them when writing their bachelor, diploma, rigorous and doctoral theses. She has received many honours, medals and awards for her work, among them are the honour for *The Most Important Personality in Pre-School Education in Slovakia* awarded by OMEP – Organisation Mondiale pour l'éducation préscolaire, (2007), certificate of *Honour by the Rector of the Catholic University in Ružomberok* (2007), and she earned the honour “*A Pedagogue Worth Remembering*” on the occasion of awarding the best teachers in Slovakia with Zlatý Amos (Golden Amos) in academic year 2011/12.

She has been fulfilling her life mission – to be a good teacher, to lead students towards love and respect for children, to playing with them – for more than a half of a century. She has never lost her optimism, but she has lived with humility in her heart, humanity, self-sacrifice, and enthusiasm for pre-school education – it is only a small fragment of the life and work of this outstanding personality depicted in this paper.

Dear colleague, dear Doc. PhDr. Valentína Trubíniová, CSc., a precious friend, on behalf of me and the Editorial Board of Acta Educationis Generalis, I wish you good prosperity, life satisfaction, a lot of love and friendship from those close to you.