

were interested in environmental education was held in the Kindergarten of St. Ursula. Prague kindergartens were also engaged in a long-term, republic-wide project called *Educational and Informational Support for Kindergartens when Meeting Environmental Issues - A Child and the World*; the Framework Education Programme for Pre-school Education. This was launched in 2007 and included the establishment of the network of kindergartens known as *MRKVICKA* (i.e. *LITTLE CARROTS*). The network consisted of kindergartens which were more interested than the others in the environment of a region or the country as a whole. Another goal of the project was to map different needs of kindergartens; to provide them with information and guidance in environmental matters on the basis of collected data; intermediate exchanges of information concerning the environmental section of SEPs – a chapter entitled *A Child and the World*, which is one of the sections of SEPs. Altogether 3,499 kindergartens were addressed during the project. 16% of questionnaires were returned but kindergartens even now are still responding and are becoming members of the network. In total 770 kindergartens from 14 regions are currently involved in the *MRKVICKA* network. The project is financed by the MEYS and is implemented by the Association of Centres for Environmental Education - Pavucina.

Prague kindergartens were involved, in the framework of the programme aimed at making motor activities optimal, in the project entitled *Healthy Back*. The Director of the National Health Institute in Prague became a guarantor of the project known as *A School Supporting Health in the Czech Republic*, which was launched on 1st January 2000. The aim of the project *Healthy Kindergarten* is to set up a network of schools promoting health in the Czech Republic. Those schools were obliged to develop a four-year strategy for education towards health. Approximately 100 kindergartens are involved in the projects in the Czech Republic and they have established the National Network of Schools Promoting Health. The Kindergarten in Sokolovska Street in Prague 8 implemented a project exercising Tai Chi for pre-school children.

Gifted Children, Pupils and Students and Children with Special Educational Needs

Within a single programming document financed by the MEYS and the EU kindergartens implemented free time activity classes for their pupils. Kindergartens in Prague participated in the educational programme – *To Start Together*. The educational programme – *To Start Together* has been implemented in the Czech Republic since 1994. The name *To Start Together* is typical only of the Czech Republic; in other countries it is called *Step by Step*. It is an educational programme emphasising an individual approach towards the child, partnership of the family, school and society in the area of education and training. It enforces and enables the inclusion of all children with SEN (children who are exceptionally gifted, children with physical and mental disorders, and disabled children, and it is very beneficial for children from different ethnicities). Moreover, the programme *To Start Together* places an emphasis on a stimulating environment, untraditional division into classes as into centres of activities, cooperative learning, project-based and cross-subject teaching. The work with child self-evaluation is very successful at the level of the involved kindergartens (through portfolio and individual educational programmes), which strengthens the positive motivation of children towards active and independent learning. Another project, in which 13 Prague kindergartens are involved, is the project called *Return of End-play or Healthy Music Playing* focusing on promotion of the development of the musical gifts of pre-school children. Prague kindergartens also participated in the republic-wide project *Materinka* aimed at the development of the artistic and creative skills of children (creative art, dancing, music, motor, and dramatic skills).