

TOCTOOLS IN EARLY YEARS

One year experience in Elblag, Poland...

All work done by....



Agata Urbanska

Alicja Gula

Karolina Witkowska

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Presented by...



Maciej Winiarek – Director of TOCFE Poland

TOCTOOLS IN EARLY YEARS



"It is one thing to show your child the way, and a harder thing to then stand out of it."

R.Brault

What are small children like?

- noisy
- hyperactive
- impulsive
- confrontational
- emotionally unstable
- lacking concentration

What are small children like?

- They know the rules but they have problems with obeying them.
- They never think of consequences of their actions.
- They cannot plan their work.
- They cannot wait for their reward.
- They require you to assess and praise their work immediately.

Can TOC tools help small children?

DEFINITELY YES,

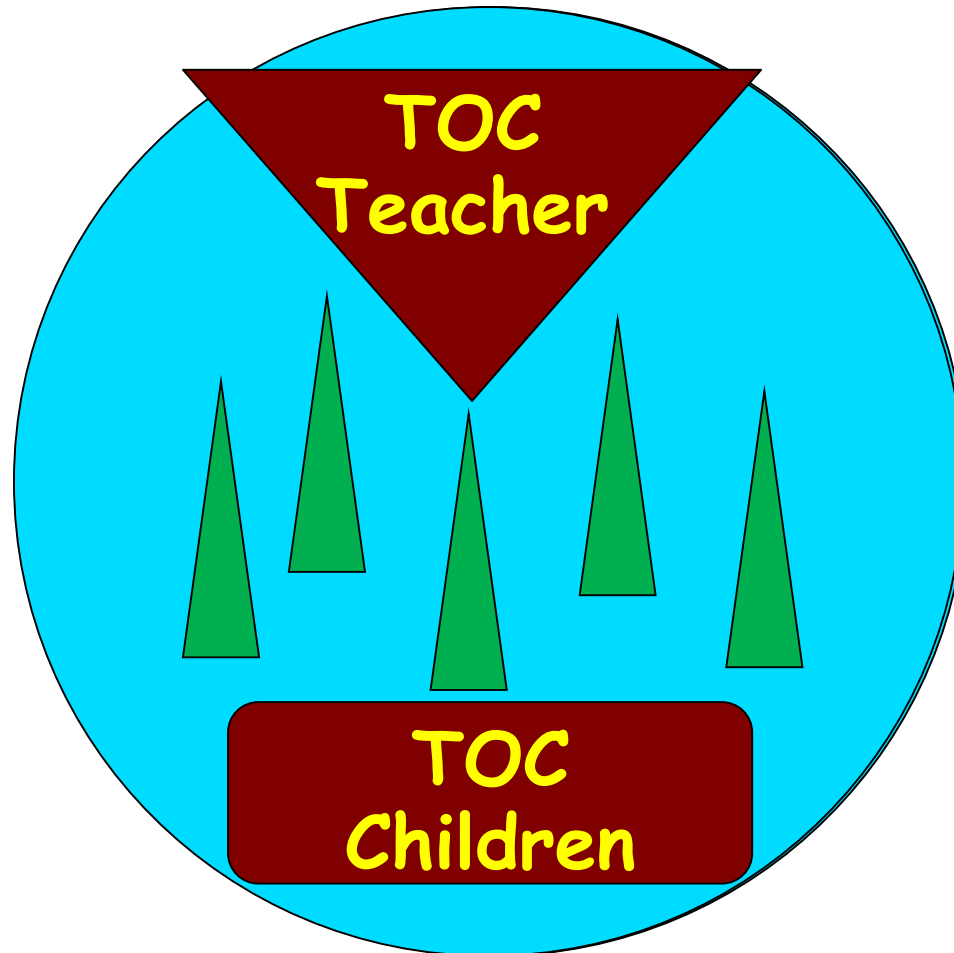
since, if properly adapted, they meet their needs of:

- having fun,
- helping to organize physical world,
- moving around constantly,
- helping to draw conclusions (instead of being criticized by adults),
- polysensory engagement,
- agency and independence.



WHO, in the course of action (arranged by the teacher)
should be more active?

The teacher or the children?



About presentation

How it works?

1. What is the problem (situation like)?
2. What we did (how to change)?
3. What is the effect (TOC effect)?

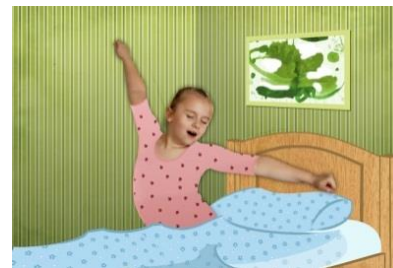
What is the situation like?

Almost every child has problems with remembering the most important facts having listened to a short story. They need the teacher to ask them additional questions to see the coherence of the text.



How to change the situation?

- While listening, children, with their eyes, look for pictures representing the plot
- They put pictures in a logical order
- At first, they work on a big "framework" of a logical branch





TOC effect

After two months of using the logical branch (about 6 times) children have the ability to reconstruct longer texts, just after one reading or listening to them.

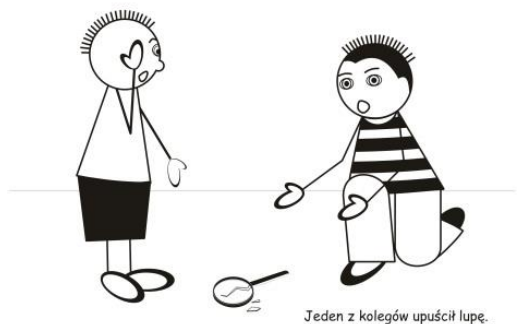


What is the situation like?

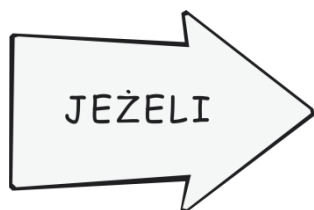
Most of children use single words or very short simple sentences to communicate.



How to change the situation?



Children make simple sentences
(they orally label photographs /
pictures)



They hold in hand a note to recall the
beginning of the sentence (when / if)



They move from one piece of the
story (a photograph) to another
(they move as the story continues)



TOC effect



After the first month children are able to create grammatically correct compound sentences. Far more children feel comfortable to make statements in class. Some children talk in pairs more easily.

What is the situation like?

If they make attempts to tell a story, it is rarely coherent.



How to change the situation?



Children analyze the causes and the results.



Children use job cards to make cause effect relationships. They notice that the effect soon becomes the cause.



TOC effect

After a few weeks children start to construct stories naturally.



What is the situation like?

When you ask children about a part of the story, they can rarely refer to it. Children, in such a situation, tend to tell everything they have remembered from the plot.



How to change the situation?

Two sets of boxes for a drawing activity. Each set consists of a blank box on top and a picture on the bottom. An arrow labeled 'To' points from the picture to the blank box. A label 'Kiedy' is in the bottom left of each picture.

Left set: The picture shows a girl in a nightgown standing in a bedroom with a bed. The caption reads: "Julka rano wstała z łóżka." (Julka woke up from bed in the morning).

Right set: The picture shows a window with snow outside. The caption reads: "Za oknem zobaczyła śnieg." (She saw snow outside the window).

Children first, complete the next part of the story, drawing and telling.

Navigation icons: a magnifying glass labeled 'LUPA 2', two faces with arrows, and a leaf icon.

Uzupełnij historię.

A sequence of five boxes for a story completion activity. Each box is preceded by an arrow labeled 'KIEDY' and followed by an arrow labeled 'To'. The first and third boxes contain photographs, while the second, fourth, and fifth are blank.

- 1. Arrow 'KIEDY' points to a photo of a woman in a doorway. Arrow 'To' points to a blank box.
- 2. Arrow 'KIEDY' points to a blank box. Arrow 'To' points to a photo of two people looking at something on the floor.
- 3. Arrow 'KIEDY' points to a photo of two people looking at something on the floor. Arrow 'To' points to a blank box.
- 4. Arrow 'KIEDY' points to a blank box. Arrow 'To' points to a photo of a hand writing on a piece of paper.
- 5. Arrow 'KIEDY' points to a photo of a hand writing on a piece of paper.

Children then complete the missing parts of the whole story, by drawing and talking



TOC effect

With the help of a logical branch, children are able to locate, in the plot, a particular element of the story. They can present what had happened before and what happened after.



What is the situation like?

Some children are afraid of reading, they learn short texts by heart or make guesses.



How to change the situation?



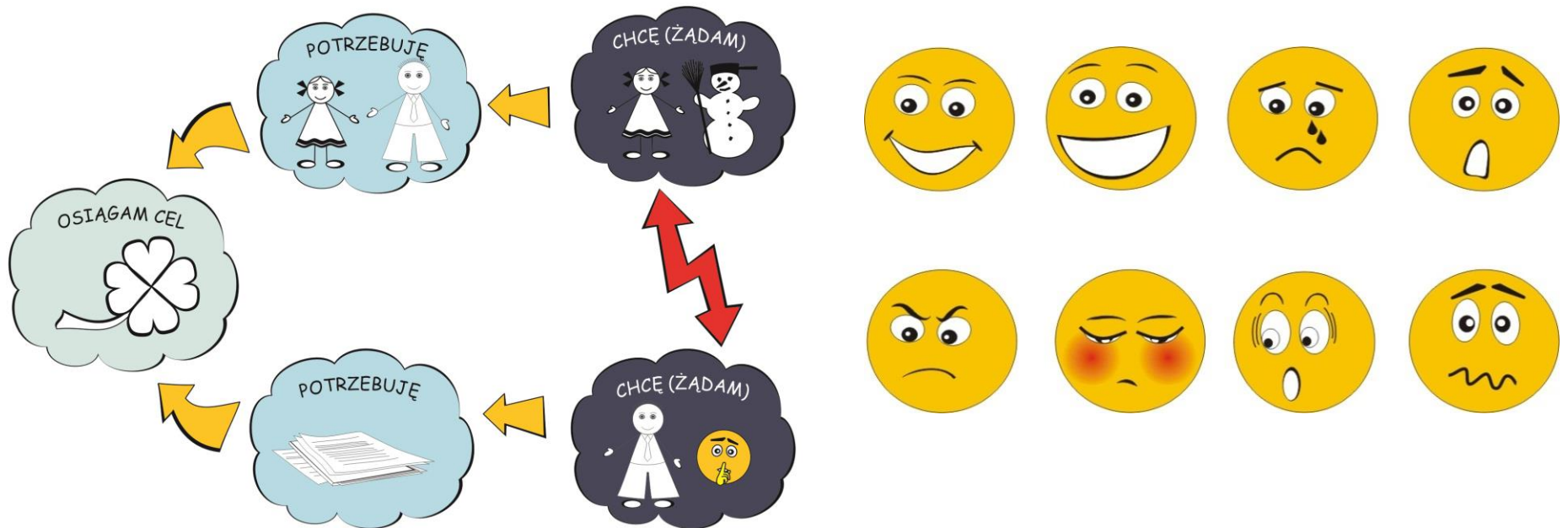
Children learn to decode (read) the story from pictures and pictograms.





TOC effect

By introduction of wordless writing (pictograms, schematic drawings, emoticons) children obtain the ability to read single words and sentences more quickly.

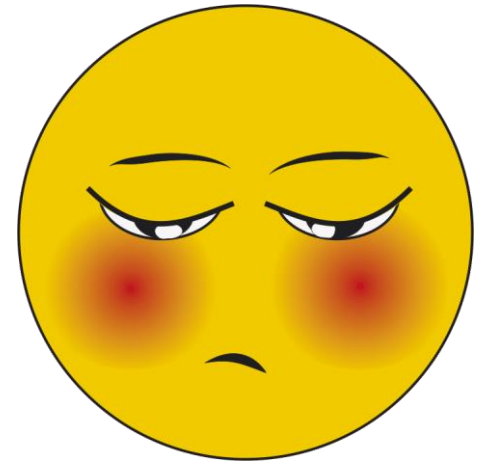


What is the situation like?

Little children often accept, without deeper understanding, that somebody or something is good or bad.



How to change the situation?



- Children identify emotions of the characters in the story.
- Children identify and name their own emotions.



TOC effect

Thanks to the application of *the cloud* and *the branch*, children analyze, verify their assumption about people and events (they become empathic).



What is the situation like?

In conflict situations children tell on each other, fight, insult each other and cry.

When they turn to an adult for help, they often get a solution. Over time an adult becomes their solution!



How to change the situation?



Children analyze the conflict. They think what emotions occur in the first phase of the conflict. They present the mood with an emoticon and a dark color of the cloud.



Children talk to each other. They talk about their needs and assign a prop to the situation (a light-colored cloud and an emoticon).



TOC effect

In conflict situations children talk to each other. They solve more than a half of the conflicts. They often use the cloud to do it.



What is the situation like?

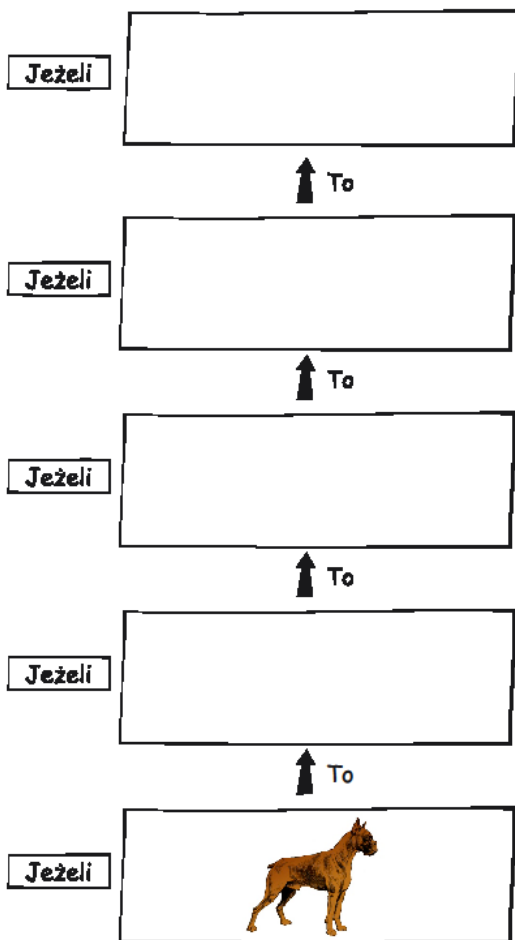
Little children are unable to imagine further consequences of some actions.

They think afterwards about what they have done and how they have behaved. Very often they cannot see anything wrong in their behavior.



How to change the situation?

Groźny pies



Thanks to a graphical presentation of the tools, children "see" their thoughts (consequences).
e.g. If I see a fierce dog, then...



TOC effect



Thanks to a graphical presentation of the tools, children "see" their thoughts (consequences).



What is the situation like?

In a conflict situation, while looking for solutions, children do not see them or see only one solution.



How to change the situation?

By using *the sun of happy solutions*, children notice that every situation has a few possible results.





TOC effect



When children concentrate on the needs, analyze “calmly”, common sense prevails over anger and shouting. Then different solutions and satisfaction arise.

What is the situation like?

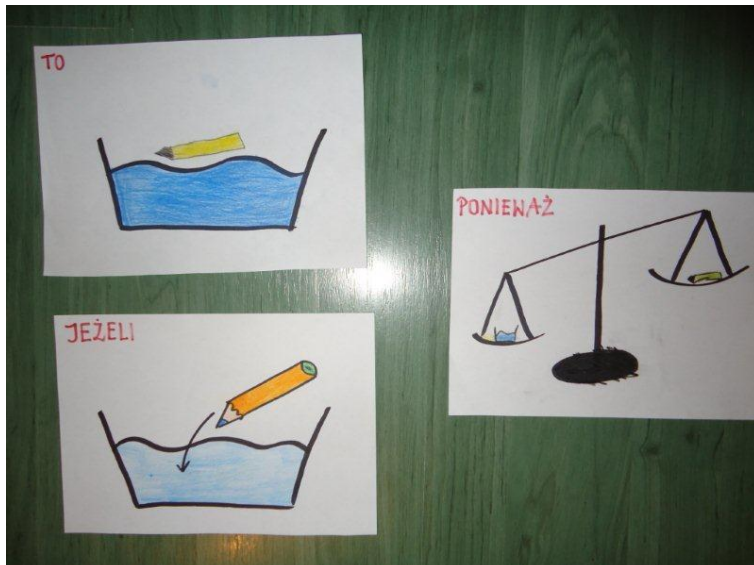
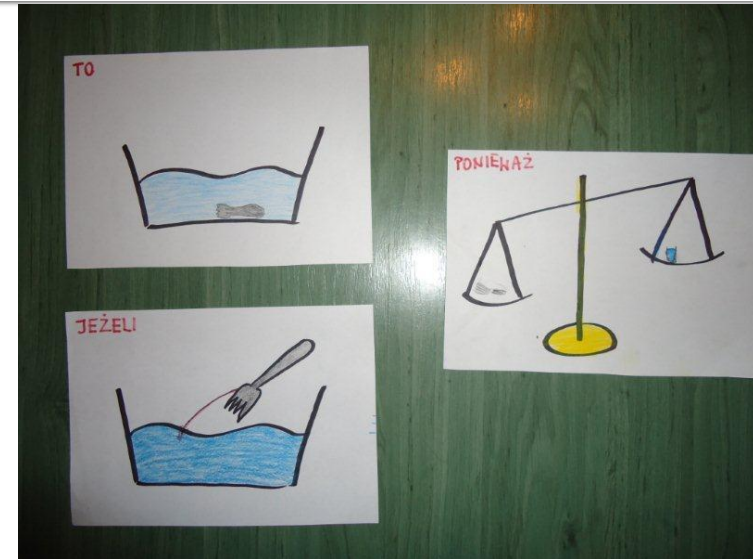
When children confront a given problem that requires connecting facts in a logical way (like a mathematical task), most of the children do not see any logical connections.

Some of the children (because of wrong education) stop inquiring why things happen.



How to change the situation?

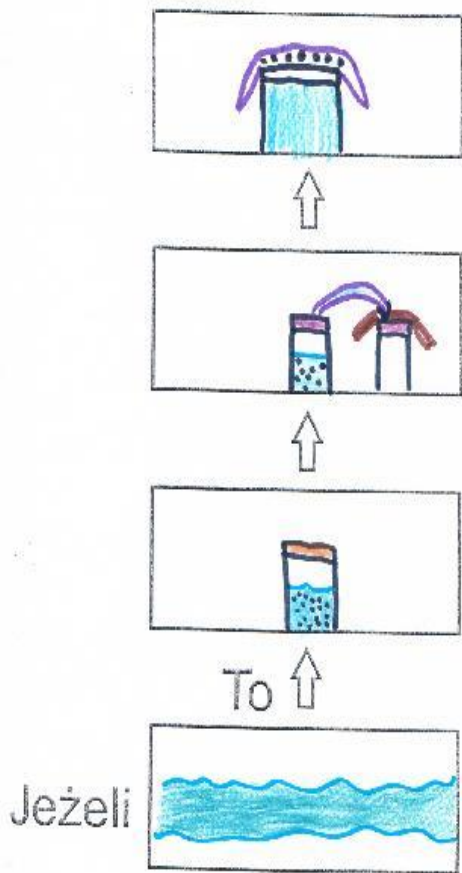
Children, by doing experiments, make hypothesis and verify them, they also explain them (with help of a logical branch both simple and complex).





TOC effect

Children are able to illustrate the experiment in a simple manner and share newly acquired knowledge with adults.



„Czy woda z rzeki jest czysta?” Zuzia lat 5

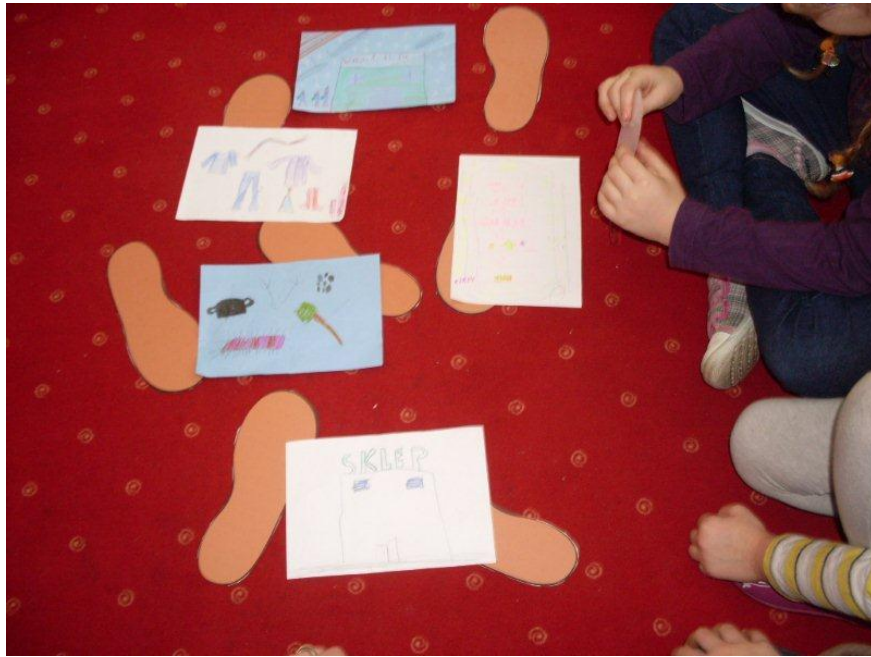


What is the situation like?

Not many children can justify even a simple choice, they often use the words – “just because...”



How to change the situation?



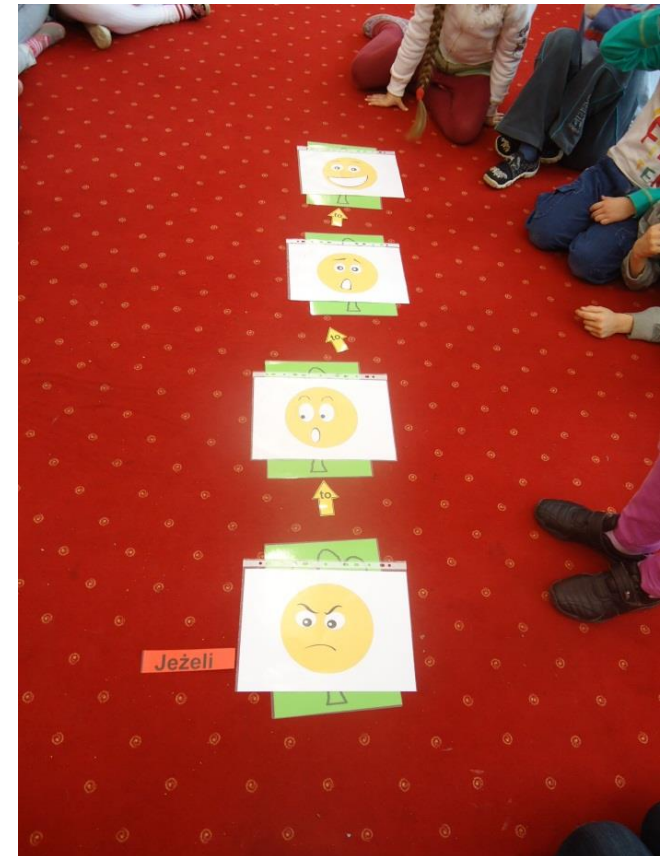
Children think, discuss,
choose different solutions.





TOC effect

They justify their choices in a logical and clear way.



What is the situation like?

Little children wait for solutions proposed by adults (teacher, parents)



How to change the situation?

**If we let children do it (and they have tools)
they become creative and propose a lot of
solutions themselves.**





How to change the situation?



With the help of the ambitious target tree they can plan and join up to help organizing a Christmas party, a trip or a museum outing...



TOC effect

Children after few weeks become very creative,
finding many solutions by themselves



What is the situation like?

When children face difficulties they often
cry or back out.



How to change the situation?



Children learn how to foresee and name different obstacles.

Analyze failures and know how to deal with them in the future (Branch).

And their focus is on finding solutions (Cloud)



TOC effect

When children use the ambitious target tree they see obstacles (they have not noticed so far in real life).



What is the situation like?

Group work seems to be difficult for children.

Some of little children cannot even work in
pairs.



How to change the situation?



At first, children work in pairs, and later on they start working in larger groups.





TOC effect

Thanks to the use of the TOC tools, children tend to believe in themselves more, they feel more secure, because they do everything together but respect each other's ideas.



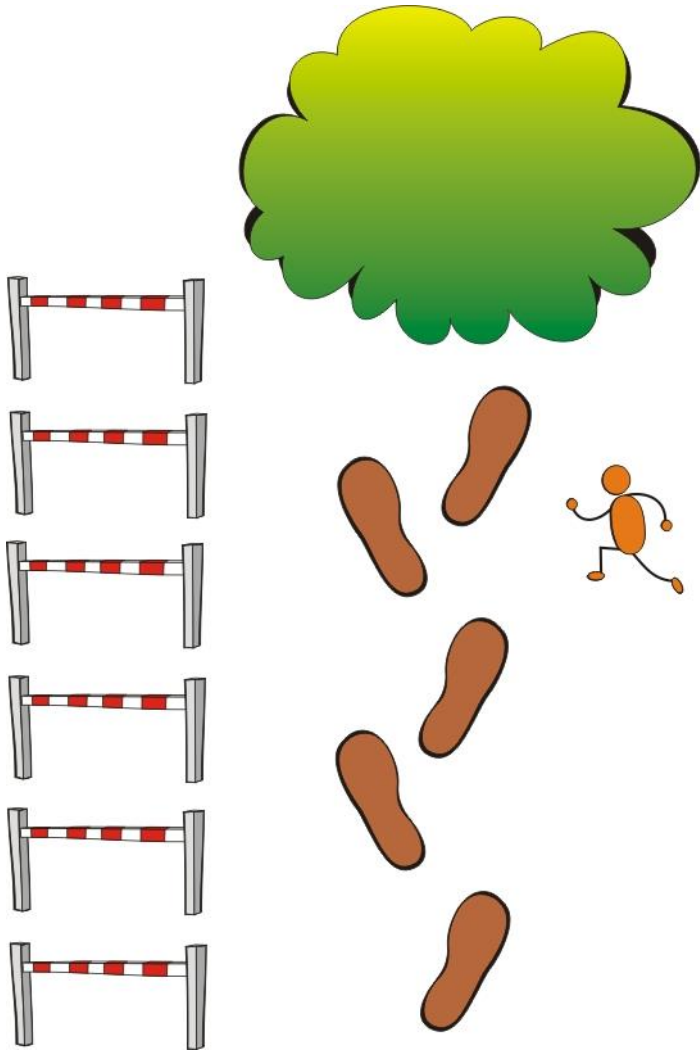
What is the situation like?

**Parents often complain that children are
lazy or disobedient.**



How to change the situation?

Children learn, step by step, how to organize their work well.





TOC effect

Thanks to a practical application of the TOC tools children become "tutors" for their parents, teaching them how to use the tools in adult life. They deserve, in the eyes of their parents, a true admiration and are filled with pride.



TOC effect

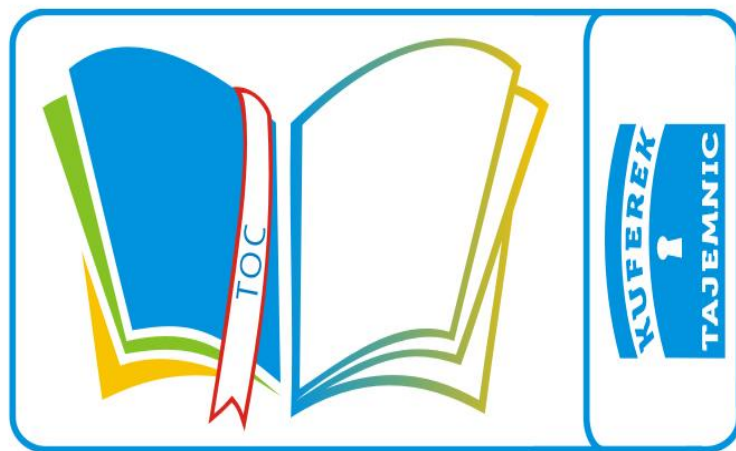
The TOC tools are very useful in education of small children. It is enough to adapt them to children's abilities.

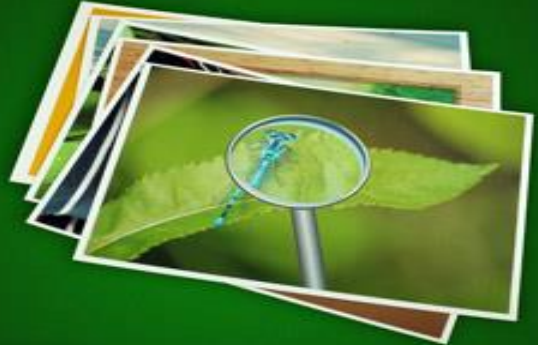
Thanks to suggested activities, exercises and unique objects (mats, props, pictograms, emoticons, job cards) little children can, not only, apply the tools perfectly but also transfer them to everyday life situations and even teach their parents!



One year experience turn into...

Publication - *The Chest of Secrets* - is a proposal of how to methodologically, step by step, introduce the TOC tools for work with **5,6 and 7 year olds.**





THANK YOU!!!

Any questions????

maciej.winiarek@tocdlaedukacji.pl