

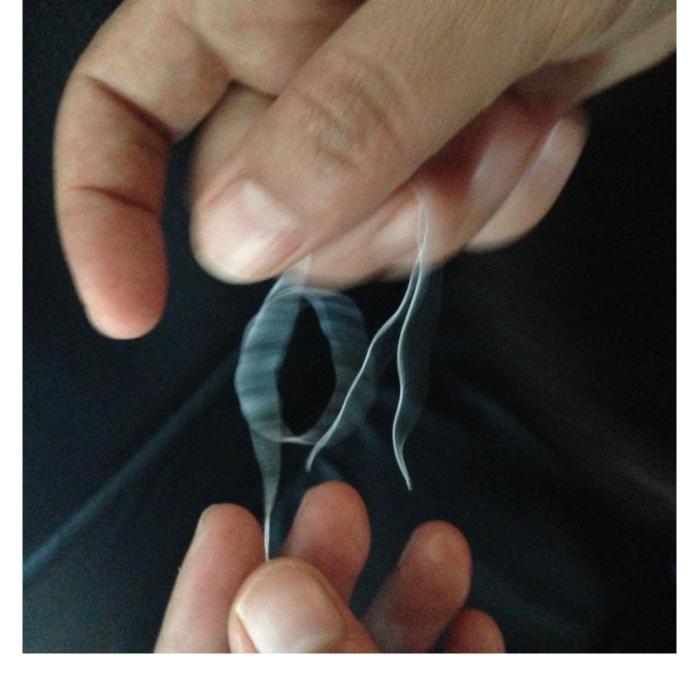
#### Leksand April, 20th 2018

#### **Marianne Herzog**

Specialist for trauma in the field of education

Expert for students with migration background in the education department of

Basel, Switzerland



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- 1. The psychological trauma
- 2. Charged transferences
- 3. Safe place
- 4. Resilience / re-installing effectiveness

# 1. The psychological trauma

#### What is a trauma

"Trauma is ... the result of an overwhelming amount of stress that exceeds one's ability to cope or integrate the emotions involved with that experience..."

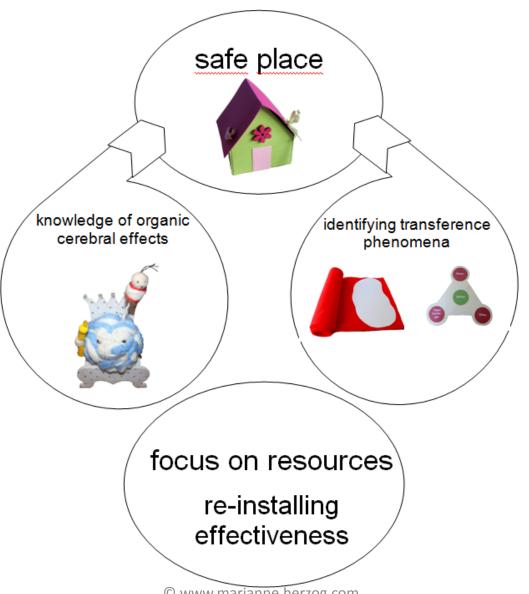
SAMHSA. US Gov Homepage

...and provokes a big feeling of helplessness and ineffectiveness.

Fischer/Riedesser

Today, thanks to functional brain imaging and neurobiological science, we know that most behaviours are regulated by rationality, except in experiences of profound threat. They lead to behaviours which cannot be voluntarily controlled. This is not caused by illness, rather it is a survival mechanism.

## Trauma pedagogy



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## Knowledge of organic cerebral effects





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The most recent research into neurobiological effects has influenced expert opinion that a child suffering from a post-traumatic stress disorder cannot easily be trained to develop new skills which can be used in threatening situations. In such situations the cerebral cortex which has been trained, is de-activated.

Therefore a safe place helps to reduce the sensitivity of the look-out man, of the antenna.



### Trauma in history

"Post traumatic disorders" were known and described in recent centuries. That means that human beings knew about the vulnerability of the soul not only about that of the body. But it is interesting that it was a topic which was forgotten and tabooed when the threats were over.

It's possible that we want to forget it because we feel that psychological trauma can be contagious.

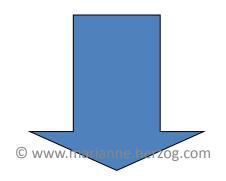






#### **Commonness of traumatised students**

We deal with students with these problems in all phases of education, because intelligence is not linked to trauma and vice versa. We should acknowledge that in a standard class of 25 students, one or even more individuals are affected by trauma. In inclusive school systems this number is even higher.



Children and young people who have very exceptional and disturbing behaviour could be suffering from psychological trauma...

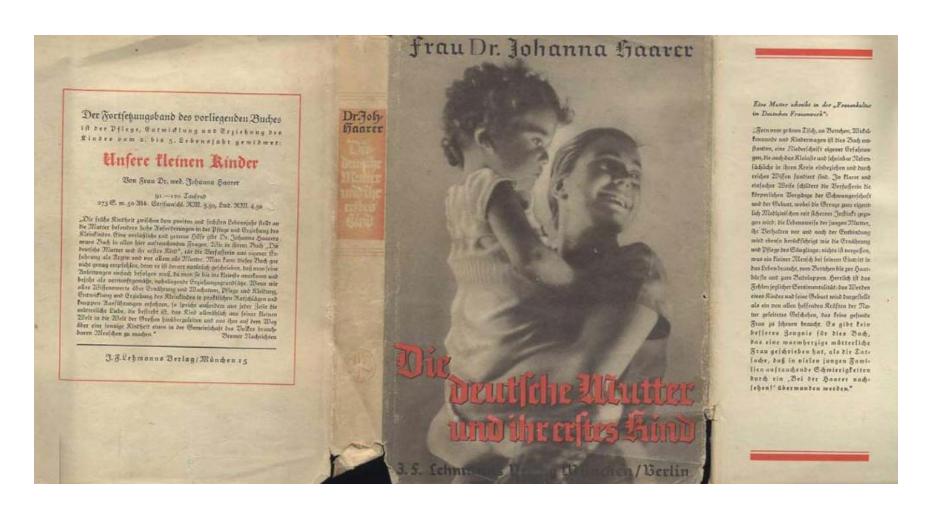
...it is worth thinking of this possibility especially when the children and young people make us feeling ineffective and helpless.

#### Secure attachment

A secure attachment is the most important factor which insulates a human being from psychological trauma. When we have dealings with children and young people who show signs of a trauma disorder, there is often a history of insecure attachment (avoidant and ambivalent attachment or disorganised attachment classification). An otherwise secure attachment style could have given the child protection.

A secure attachment can only be developed with a person who gives appropriate and sensitive response. Sensitiveness means that the adult responds with a fast and appropriate response to the child's needs and actions.

# Attempts to avoid a secure attachment in history



 Dictatorship tries to avoid a secure attachment; people need more security from the government and more easily accept the rigidity of totalitarism

 The modern economy could be interested in customers without secure attachment; they consume more (???)

### Causes for psychological trauma (summary)

#### acute trauma

- Illness and death in the family
- Accident
- Natural disaster
- Divorce, separation, loss
- War
- Loss of parental employment
- Neglect
- Bullying
- Sexual abuse
- Violence (especially in their own family)

# Neclect in early childhood

persistent trauma

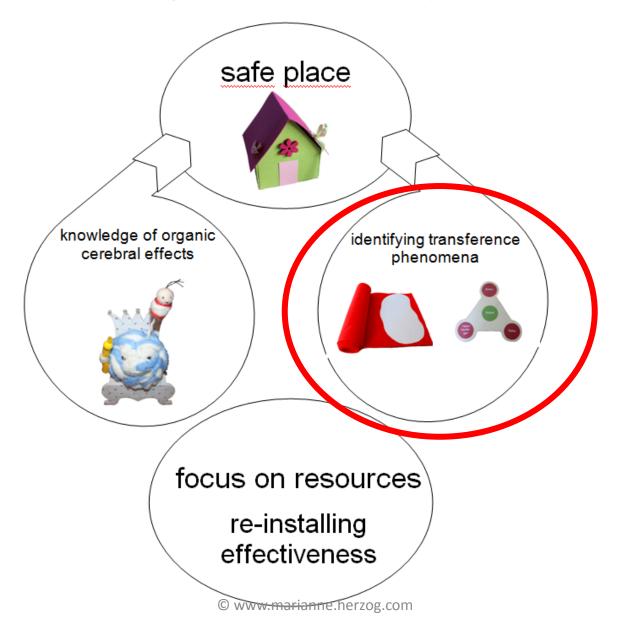
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Traumatic experience caused by bullying, a frequent issue in educational organisations, is often directly linked to the school environment. Bullying should not be underestimated as a cause of trauma.

# 2. Charged transferences



### **Identifying transference phenomena**



A person with a chronified trauma disorder will be triggered and this leads to actions he cannot control. These actions can be understood as self-healing attempts of the soul hoping that this time the action leads to a happy end and the problem can be solved and abandoned. At the same time the action unconsciously leads to a failure; this fact provokes a retraumatisation which strenghtens the trauma disorder.



It is like a red carpet which is the invitation for us to step on it and to act up in the play of the trauma

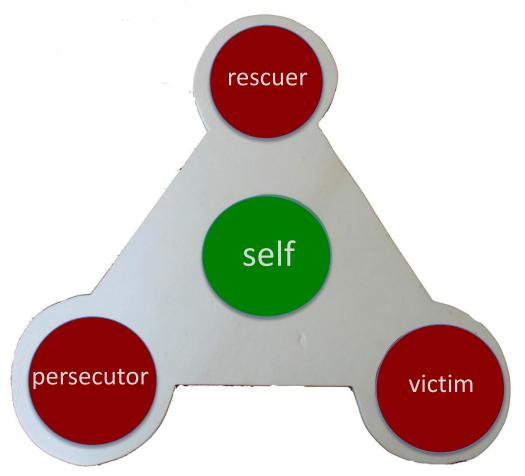


But if we don't step on this red carpet and stay in our "self", we make new outcomes possible. The trauma pedagogy can help to identify how to find a good way to escape from the "trauma play". A very simple and powerful method is the "concept of the good reason".



# Assuming positions of rescuer, victim, persecutor

Typically, we have strong feelings in our dealings with heavily traumatised children and young people. These feelings can be transferred. If we don't recognise them as transferences, we risk illness through prolonged exposure. Only if transferences are recognised can a stable relationship be developed. Very often transferences are mixed up with the feeling of the professional himself. They can be linked to their own biography; we feel attracted to a special position, that of a rescuer, a victim or a persecutor.



With transferences we risk assuming the position of the rescuer, the persecutor or the victim. Only reflective practitioners can help others while retaining their own morale.

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It is important to come back to the position of "myself". There I have connection to my skills and knowledge and can build a sustainable relationship with students.

Transferential dynamics are powerful traps. As professionals interacting with impacted students it's important to identify these dynamics to stay in a state of good mental health and to be able to build a sustainable relationship with those students.



#### The concept of the good reason

For the interaction with traumatised students the "concept of the good reason" is very helpful. We admit that the student has a good reason for his behaviour even if this behaviour is difficult and/or inacceptable for us as teachers or social workers:

# "You might have a good reason that you..."

(Alice Ebel)

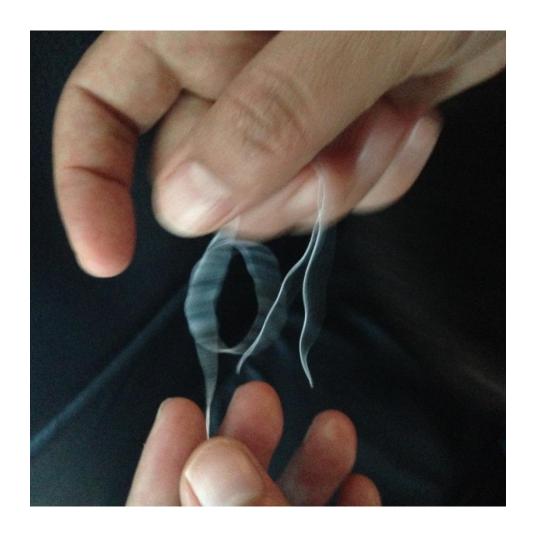
# You might have a good reason that *you...*

# The letter G like "gift"



#### concordant tansferences

### Re-enacting the ineffectiveness



#### example













#### Summary

Traumatised children confront us as teachers, therapists or social workers with their trauma – whether we like it or not!
Children with psychological trauma re-enact their stories in their daily life, including school. They transfer their experience of traumatic attachment.

# Please identify your own examples when you were driven out from "myself" to the position of

- a victim
- a rescuer
- a persecutor

## 3. A "safe place"

Only "A safe place"makes it possible that the very efficient survival strategies will be given up and alternative behaviours can be installed." Marc Schmid 2012



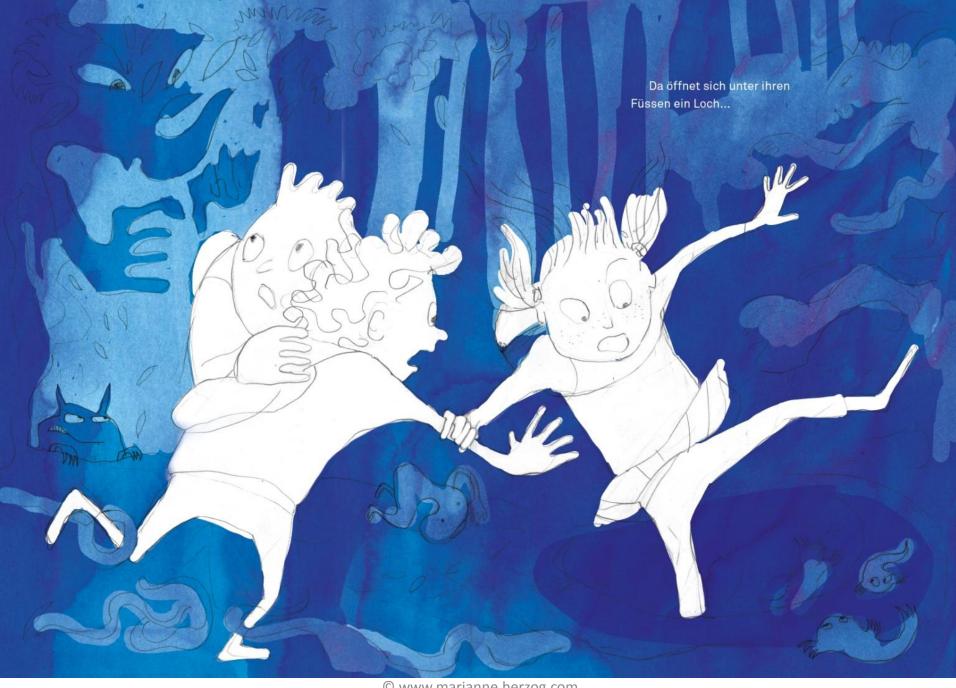
## Let's focus on the safe place!

# The safe place in the children's book ,Lily, Ben and Omid'









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Wenig später sitzen sie alle vier zusammen, knabbern Schokoladenkekse und trinken Tee.

Nach einer Weile meint Annelene: «Ihr habt sicher einen guten Grund, warum ihr nicht in der Schule seid.»

> Da nickt Omid und sagt, er könne in der Schule kaum aufpassen. Still sitzen und zuhören sei unmöglich, alles lenke ihn ab. Oft könne er abends lange nicht einschlafen, dann sei er am nächsten Tag noch zappeliger.



Lily berichtet traurig, dass sie oft wegen einer Kleinigkeit fürchterlich wütend werde und dann schreie, tobe, um sich schlage und anderen Kindern Angst mache. Viele Kinder würden deshalb nicht mehr mit ihr spielen wöllen.



Ben seufzt und erzählt, er fühle sich oft traurig und mutlos. Es scheine ihm, alle anderen könnten alles besser. Machmal möge er eine Aufgabe gar nicht beginnen, da es sinnlos sei, er werde sie sowiese nicht verstehen

«Oh je», sagt Annelene, «das ist überhaupt nicht lustig, so zur Schule gehen zu müssen.» Es ist einen Moment ganz still und alle denken nach.

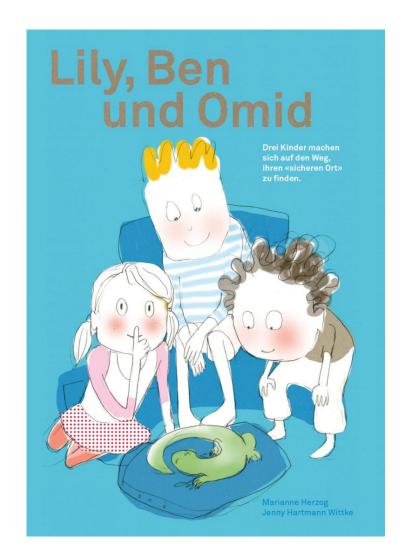


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#### psycho-education





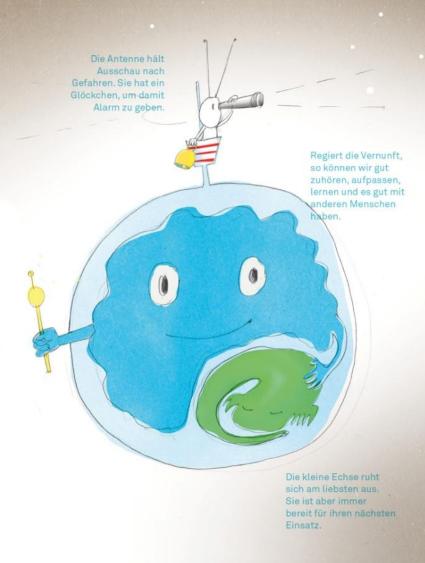
«Kennt ihr die Geschichte von der kleinen Echse, der Antenne, dem Glöckchen und der Vernunft?» fragt Annelene vorsichtig. Die Kinder schütteln den Kopf. «Höchste Zeit, dass jemand euch davon erzählt», Annelene setzt sich gemütlich hin:

«Normalerweise regiert bei uns Menschen die Vernunft. Sie hat das Zepter in der Hand und erteilt die Befehle.

Wir besitzen aber auch eine Art Antenne. Sie hat die Aufgabe, Gefahren zu erkennen. Was eine Gefahr ist, das weiss sie von früher her.

Und schliesslich verfügt unser Gehirn noch über eine kleine Echse. Sie hat die Aufgabe, uns zu retten, wenn wir in Gefahr sind.







Läutet das Glöckchen, ist die kleine Echse blitzschnell bereit zum Regieren. Sie ist viel schneller als die Vernunft, das hilft beim Überleben. Die Echse kennt die Befehle ‹kämpfen›, ‹flüchten› oder ‹erstarren›. Je nach Gefahr wählt sie eine der drei Möglichkeiten.

Wenn die Gefahr vorbei ist, hört die Antenne auf, mit dem Glöckchen zu läuten. Die Echse rollt sich zusammen, schläft ein und überlässt das Regieren wieder der Vernunft. Die Vernunft ist weniger schnell, sie kann sich aber gut an Vergangenes erinnern, in Ruhe überlegen und findet Lösungen.

Es ist gut, dass wir Menschen die drei haben: Die Vernunft, die Antenne und die blitzschnelle Echse.



Die Echse befiehlt entweder zu kämpfen, zu flüchten oder zu erstarren.

# The safe place at different schools in the project



An Erasmus+ Project with 6 countries 2015 - 2018

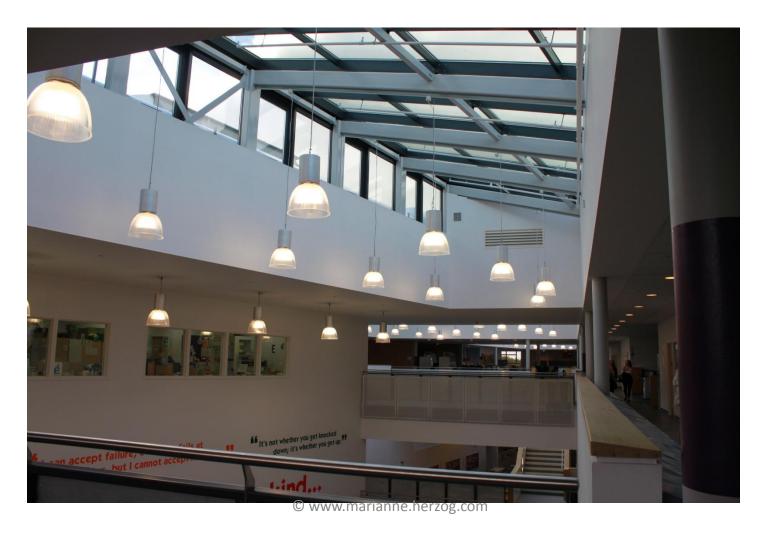
## Ipsia Carlo Cattaneo, Rom,

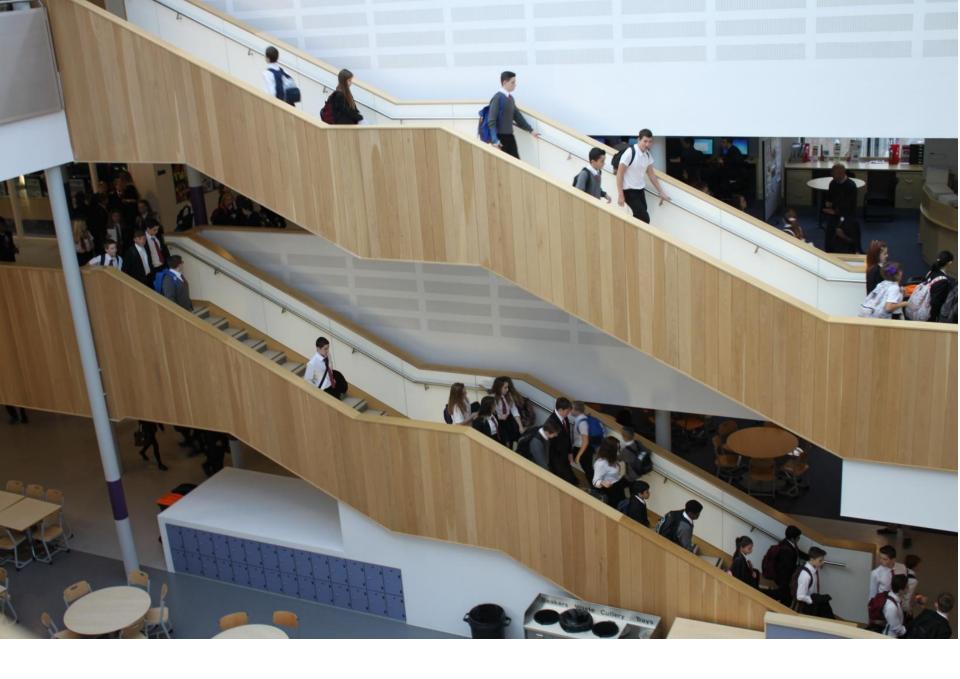
vocational studies for young migrants: the mobile phone links them to their teachers and provides them with a safe place



#### Marriotts School Stevenage

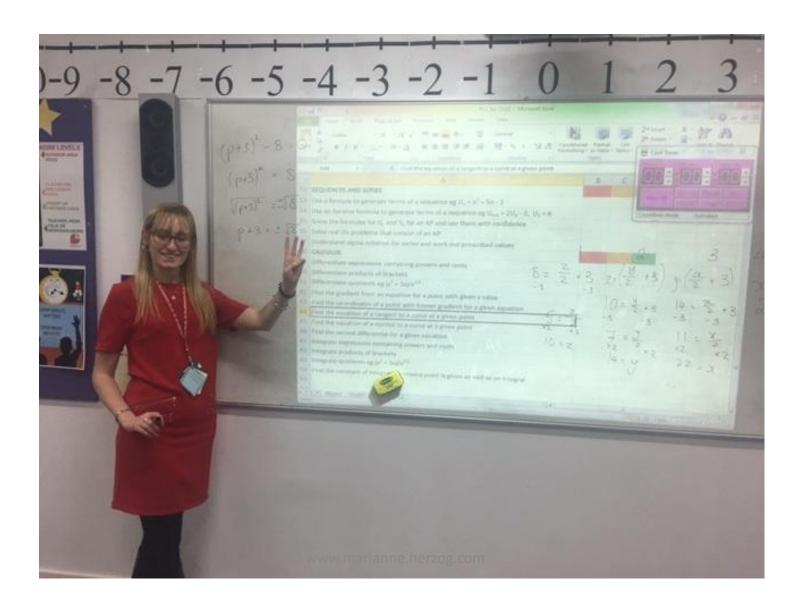
A great example how a building and additional methods can garantee the safe place







#### 5-4-3-2-1-method to get the attention of students



# Zespol Szkol Elektronicznych i Ogolnoksztalcacych, Przemysl



#### They put a special focus on integrating new students



## Scoala Gimnaziala Sura Mica, Romania







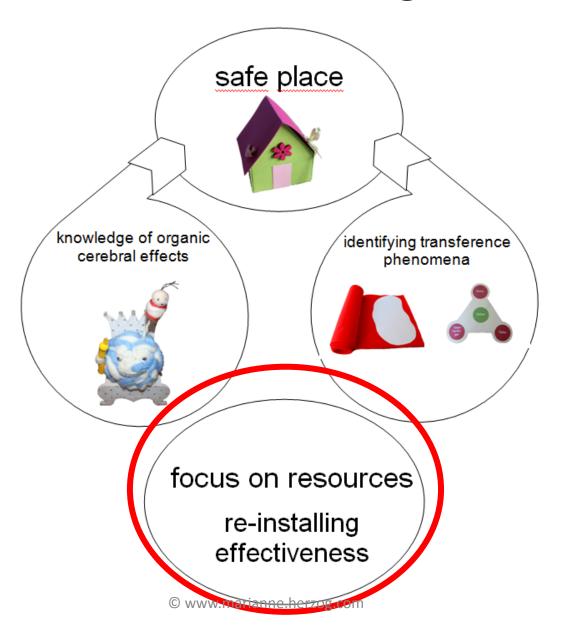
# Excellent cooperation among all players (church, school, health system, municipality, NGO)



### How do you create your own safe place at work?



## 4. Resources and re-installing effectiveness



# Activate resources





#### Congratulations!

Form:

MARRIOTTS

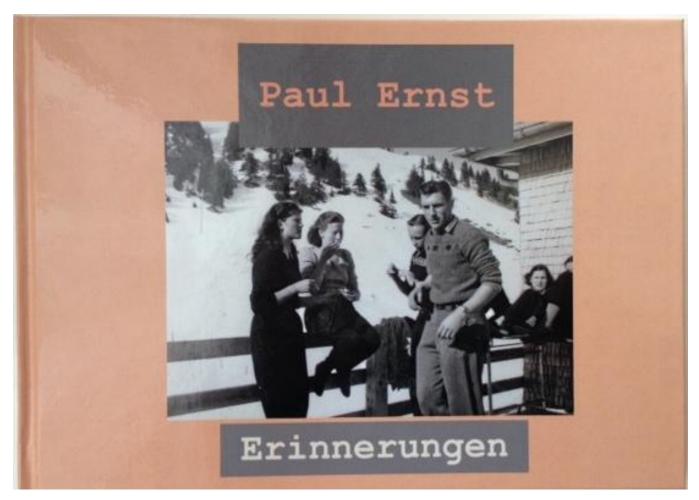
Well done for the excellent work you produced today in

Name:

Please take this slip to visit the Headteacher in her office, situated on the 1st floor.

Keep up the good work. 'Aim high, Work hard, Be kind.'

# Time-witness-project to enhance relationship in families and between countries





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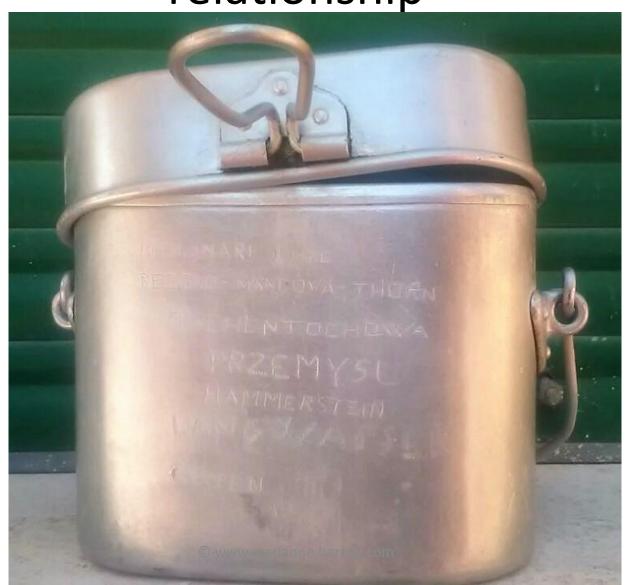








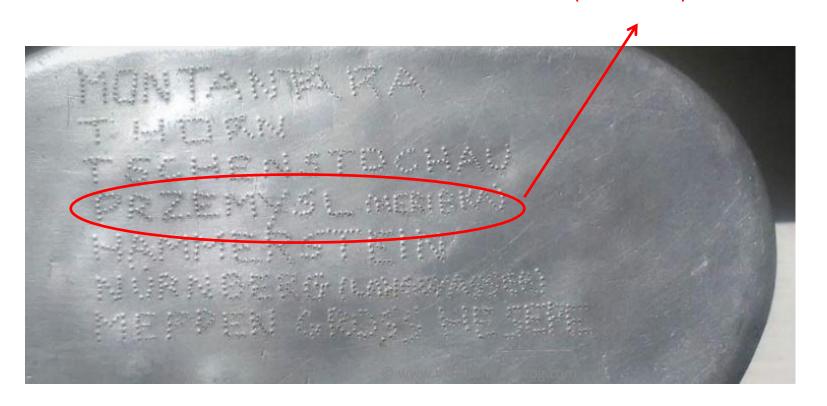
An incredible story; building up relationship







### PRZEMYSL (NEHRIBKA)



# MONUMENT IN NEUDYDKA

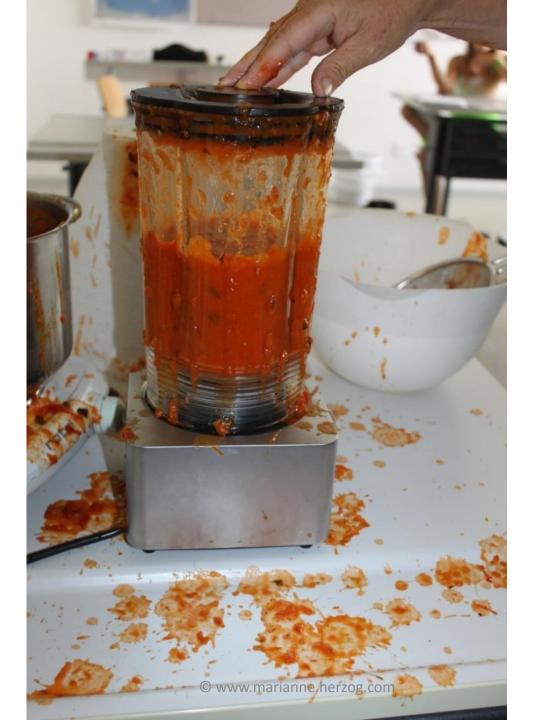
When I was a child, I used to visit a general area of the monument with my parents. Then I didn't realise how senous this place was, it was for me just a kind of spending free time. However, one of these tours stuck especially in my memory. We went then to Nehrybka. Heading towards the goal, I was wondering what for we are going to 'Polna' plant. It turned out that behind this factory, hidden in the thickets of shrubs, a beautiful, huge monument stood, it was put up to worship the prisoners of war and Italian soldiers killed there. I found out also that this factory wasn't always a workplace, at one time on this site there were the prisoners of war camp. After German Nazi aggression on The Soviet Union, they started to prepare military barracks in Nehrybka and in Pikulice for these camps.





# Re-install effectiveness





## Thank you!

