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The role of health School Doctor and the pupils well-being in secondary school

Budapest Symposium: 21th and 22th march 2015

The health school doctor belongs to a department called “Health promotion for school children” and is a public health doctor for school children.

The health school doctor is first appointed after a selective exam and then follows a specific training at the French public Health School.

A school doctor works with school nurses, educational staff (school Heads, educational school officers, teachers, and school staff in general). A school doctor is in charge of children’s health from the age of five.

The workload is divided in sectors for infant schools (pupils aged 5), primary schools (6-11), secondary schools (11-15), colleges (16-18), and for various structures like universities, public schools for students in further educational studies.

The health school doctor responsibilities are multiple. A school doctor has to:

1. Concerning all school children:

- Identify possible problems at an early stage during the compulsory medical visit for 5 year old children.
- Promote awareness on Health issues.
- Organize action plans in order to improve the quality of life for students as far as hygiene, safety, and ergonomics are concerned.
- Examine children at the end of primary school and secondary school.
- Evaluate learning difficulties.

2. Concerning specific actions:

- Follow-up the previously referred school children in priority sectors.
- Organize emergency committees in case of serious events or contagious diseases alerts.
- Take action to help children victim of sexual or child abuse.
- Participate in the development of a health program for school children with a disability.
- Facilitate the integration of school children with a chronic disease.
- Examine school children in professional secondary schools in order to provide medical certificates of aptitudes for specific tasks.

3. Conduct some research in connection with the day watch

4. Organize training sessions for the national education school staff

The national education school doctor is responsible for promoting and improving the quality of life for children in schools. Mrs. Marianne Lenoir has realized a study during her PHD in science of education and has described the various factors of well-being for school children in secondary schools according to both school children and teachers. The confrontation of opinion on these factors for these 2 groups could help us define some new leads and eventually improve the well-being of children in schools.