

Identification and preventative measures in the abuse of children (ages 4-5)



„The Land of Fireflies” a Polish project

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Kraina
Świellików



THE
Land of
THE
Fireflies

title

„The Land of Fireflies”
City Hall in Sosnowiec– Social Policy
Department
Poland
01.08. – 31.12.2012

location

CITY: Sosnowiec
VOIVODSHIP: Silesia
COUNTRY: Poland

duration

Project duration: 5 months.
Preparation time: 01.08.-30.09.2012
Project data: 03.10. – 14.12.2012



This project is part of a larger scope of child abuse prevention.

Why is it worth taking preventative measures in schools?

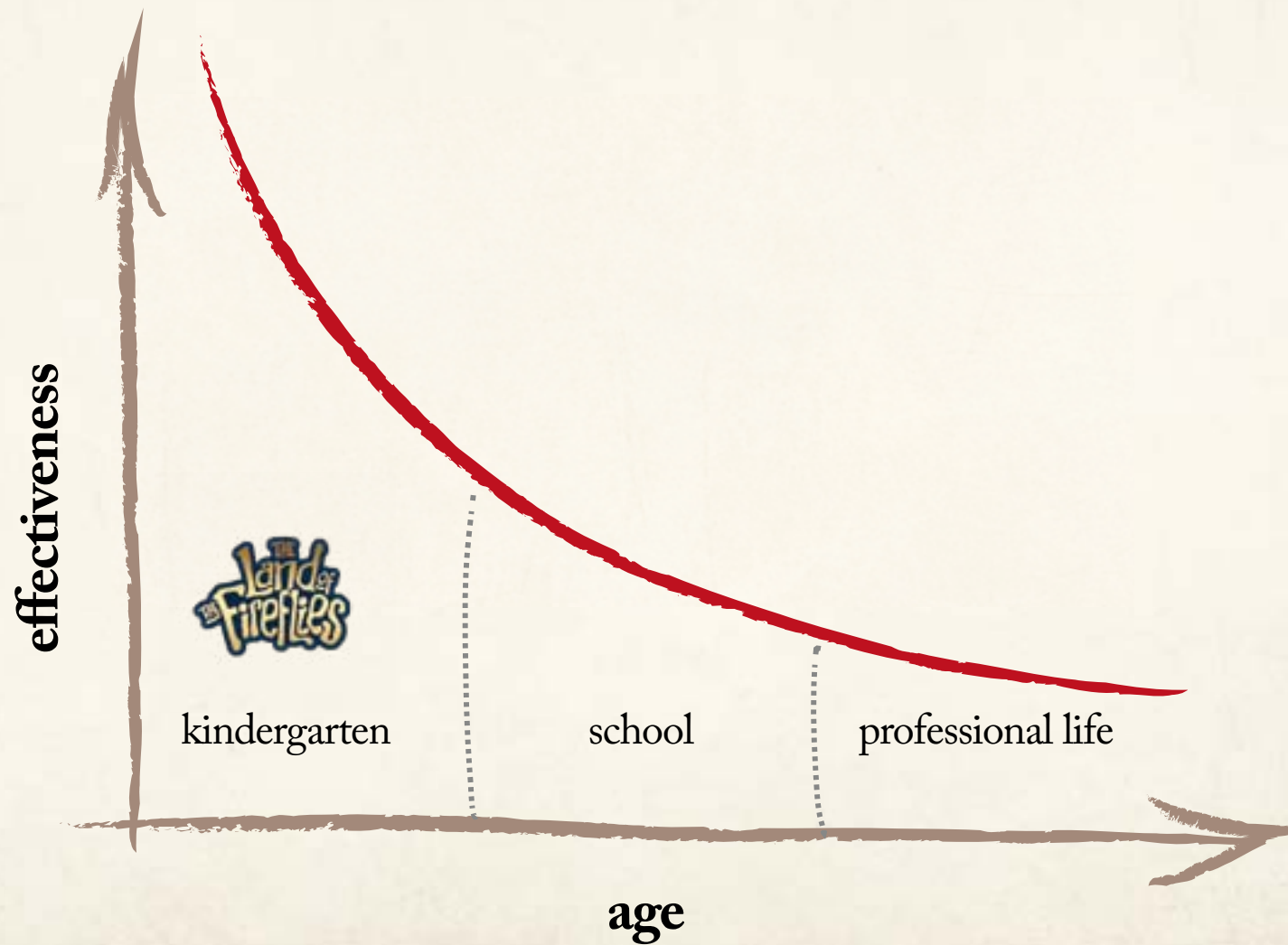
Kindergarten and schools are places where children spend a great deal of time supervised by adults.

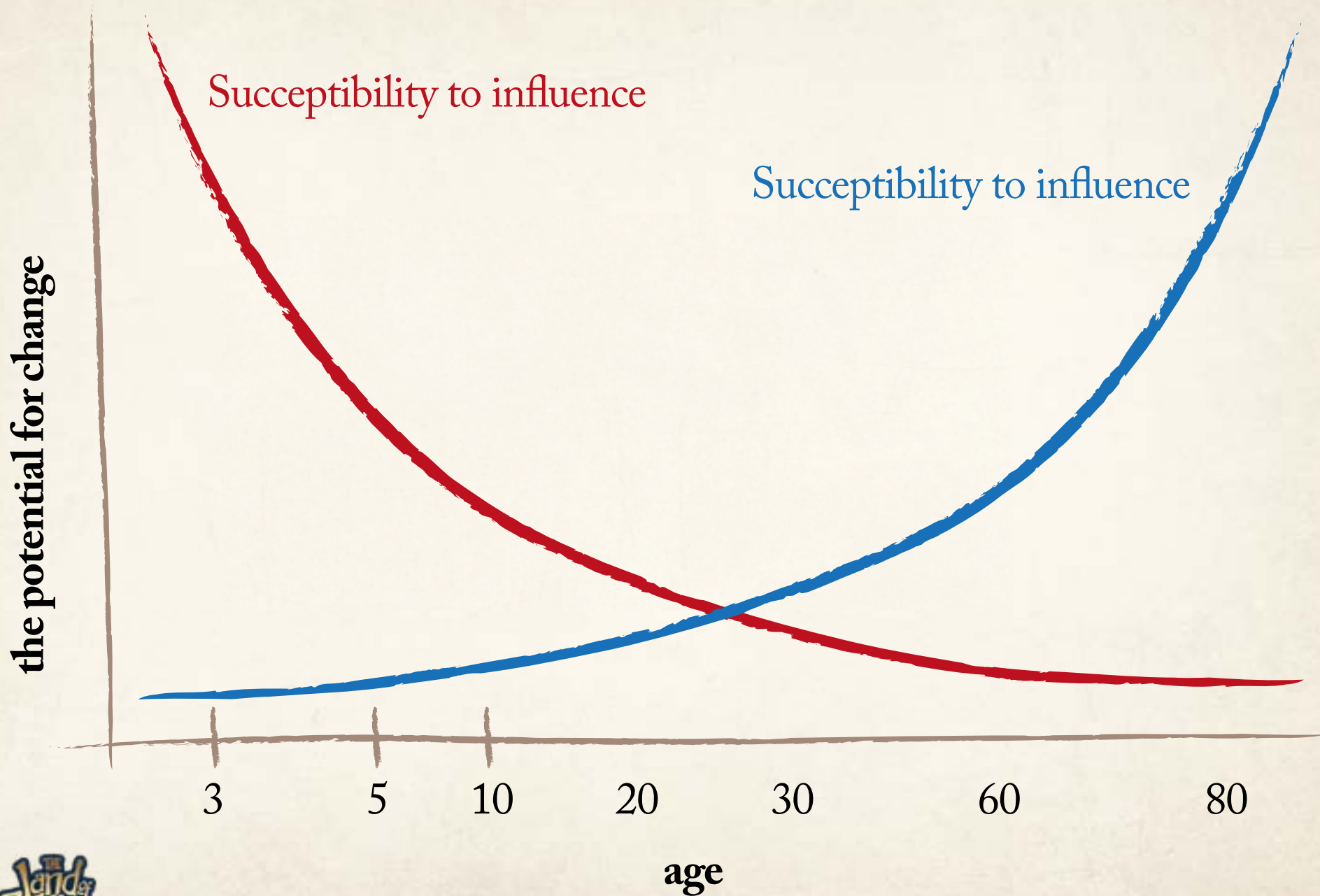
Therefore the role of teachers/educators in helping to solve issues of violence against children is critical – as this is a group of qualified professionals who deal with children and their problems on a daily bases.



Effectiveness of prevention

(BASED ON: HECKMAN 2000; MCWHIRTER)





results of prevention

- **less cases** of physical and psychological abuse
- **increased capacity** to empathize
- the **ability to adapt** to a healthy environment
- **decreases the cost** of future psychological help
- **reduces legal expenses**, and all related costs, due to lower crime



background

- In Poland there is no reliable data reflecting the problem of child abuse.
- It is difficult to determine the number child abuse cases in Poland because there is no system.
- The only source of data comes from the police and courts.





Pilotażowy Program Profilaktyki Przemocy
wobec Małych Dzieci

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www.kraina-swielikow.pl

 www.facebook.com/KrainaSwielikow

Projekt jest współfinansowany ze środków Województwa Śląskiego i Polityki Społecznej



prevention

early
intervention

early
identification

Kraina
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The Program „THE LAND OF FIREFLIES”

was implemented in the city of Sosnowiec from August to December 2012.



THE GOAL

To prevent child abuse by identifying and intervening

THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT

Children

Parents

Professionals



The project was tested in five kindergartens within the city of Sosnowiec.
In 2013, the project will be implemented in all kindergartens in the city.

benefits of the project

Identify potential cases of child abuse and neglect.

Greater access to professionals for the children =
a greater chance to identify the problem.

To help children understand their environment.



project stages



stage I

Working with children



stage II

Working with parents



stage III

Working with professionals



Why fairytales?

Fairytales are the **most important tool** of the project because of their therapeutic effects

- The fairytales engage the child's fantasy and imagination
- They explain the world in simple way
- They allow children to safely identify with the story through metaphors





the
fairy = professional

The professional is the fairy
in the fairytale world

The professionals
are responsible
for the coordination and
supervision of activities.





POMPON = TRUST

Children can trust him
with their secrets.



SNIFFY = HELP

Helps kids find happiness, snifs out
negative emotions such as malice,
resentment and indifference.

stage I Working with children



The project consists of six fairytales. Each story is dedicated to a specific emotional problem.

the need of help

“The Trapped Witch”

misunderstanding

“Reaching out”

responsibility

“The Horse’s Back”

loneliness

“The fairytale
about the Flower”

love

“The Little Bear”

helplessness

“The elephant trap”

Each story helps the
child identify
a specific emotion.



How does it work?

stage I Working with children

the story

helplessness

“The elephant trap”

- Children listen to the story.
- If a child identifies with the character (the little elephant):



This is a signal for the therapist to take action.



The feeling of helplessness comes from child abuse, neglect, lack of support.

Working with the child:

- What causes a child to feel helplessness?
- What are the effects of helplessness?
- How a child expresses helplessness?
- How to prevent helplessness?



Effects of working:

- understanding the causes and effects of helplessness
- teaching that helplessness is the result of someone's actions, not the imperfections of the child
- support, care, understanding the child



Activities directed towards all parents

- Educational meetings
- Website: www.kraina-swietlikow.pl
- Help center via e-mail

Actions directed to the parents of the risk group

- Parenting workshop
- The Fireflies Cafe
- Help center via e-mail



The Fireflies Cafe

The Fireflies Cafe is an opportunity for parents to deepen their knowledge and skills of bringing up children in a casual setting.

Parents meet with various specialists from the parenting field.





Working with professionals

1. Training the staff in child abuse prevention.
2. Preparation and distribution of tools and materials needed for the project.
3. Regular meetings of all involved in the implementing of the project.



Problems and challenges

- prevention
- processing of data
- different levels of involvement of kindergarten staff
- various levels of competence of specialists
- fear of taking the intervention



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Project COSTS

For the implementation of the project, the city acquired funding from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy Department. As part of its social protection programme within the framework of the local government, in an effort in tackling domestic violence.

The total cost of the project:	192 000 zł
Contribution of City Sosnowiec:	51 430 zł
The amount of funding from the Ministry of Labour:	141 500 zł
Input obtained from other partners:	62 890 zł

The project was made possible with the help of volunteers from public and private sectors



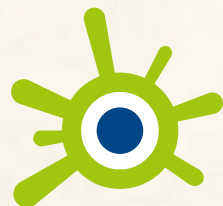


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Sosnowiec

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.