

# Cooperation with Parents



## MUTUAL TRUST

Teachers who work with small children know how much the achievements of their pupils depend on the approach and involvement of their parents or guardians. Mutual trust between a child's parents and his/her teacher plays a fundamental role in the teaching process.



## MOTIVATING PARENTS

In addition, a barrier between parents/guardians and teachers which is difficult to overcome arises out of a certain deal of mystery surrounding the English classes. It results from the character of foreign language and the lack of text in the primary Pupil's Book. You should notice that during the long period of learning English not only children need additional motivation but also their parents/guardians should not lose the sense of reasonableness of their efforts.

## PARENTS' EXPECTATIONS

The fact that modern English language teaching does not follow traditional methods based on teaching words and grammar structures, and that performance is no longer measured with the quantity of covered material, does not make the work easier for teachers. Unfortunately, teachers often struggle with unrealistic expectations from parents or guardians. These expectations result from personal experience and understanding studying as a serious obligation and not a subtle response to a child's needs, including also the need to play.

## THE TYPICAL SITUATION

Parents and guardians bringing their children to school await quick and measurable effects of teaching. When pupils leave the classroom smiling, they are besieged with questions: *'What did you learn today?'*, *'What did you do in class today?'*. Often parents hear an answer they aren't satisfied with and say to themselves with disappointment: *'Oh you played again...'* At the same time, the teacher thinks it is a pity that parents are not acquainted with the methods of teaching children a foreign language. Parents may expect children to 'report' on the issues covered in the classes, whereas in fact classes are for teaching language and not the skill of talking about language.



## COOPERATION

By explaining principles of modern English teaching to parents/guardians, we give them the opportunity to help their child. Such help means mainly making sure that the child has done his/her homework, it is related to consolidating the covered material and it involves parents in motivating their child for further work. It should be remembered, though, that nobody can replace a professional teacher who knows the methodology of teaching English and the classroom techniques perfectly.

