



Karin Dom -
Center for Rehabilitation
and Social Integration of
Children with Special
Needs and Their Families

e-mail: karindom@karindom.org

Website: www.karindom.org

- The Center provides services for approximately 150 children per year with physical disabilities, mental disorders, learning difficulties, autism, hyperactivity disorders, multiple disabilities. The work aims at early intervention and integration of the children with special needs.

- Karin Dom was the first NGI in Bulgaria which started a new method of working with children with disabilities and initiated a struggle against their classification as «uneducable» and also against the old system which sends them in institutions, hidden from the eyes of the society.
- We work with each child as per an individual program. A multidiscipline team is working with the children and families - special pedagogues, psychologists, speech therapists, a kinesitherapist, rehabilitators, social workers, a pediatrician, assistants. The program for parents includes consultation, training and groups of mutual assistance and support.

In Karin Dom the practical work is combined with the vindication in order to be enhanced the consciousness of the society. Thus we support the social inclusion in the society. One of the main objectives is children with special needs to live in their natural family environment.

Activities at Karin dom centre



Bobath therapy



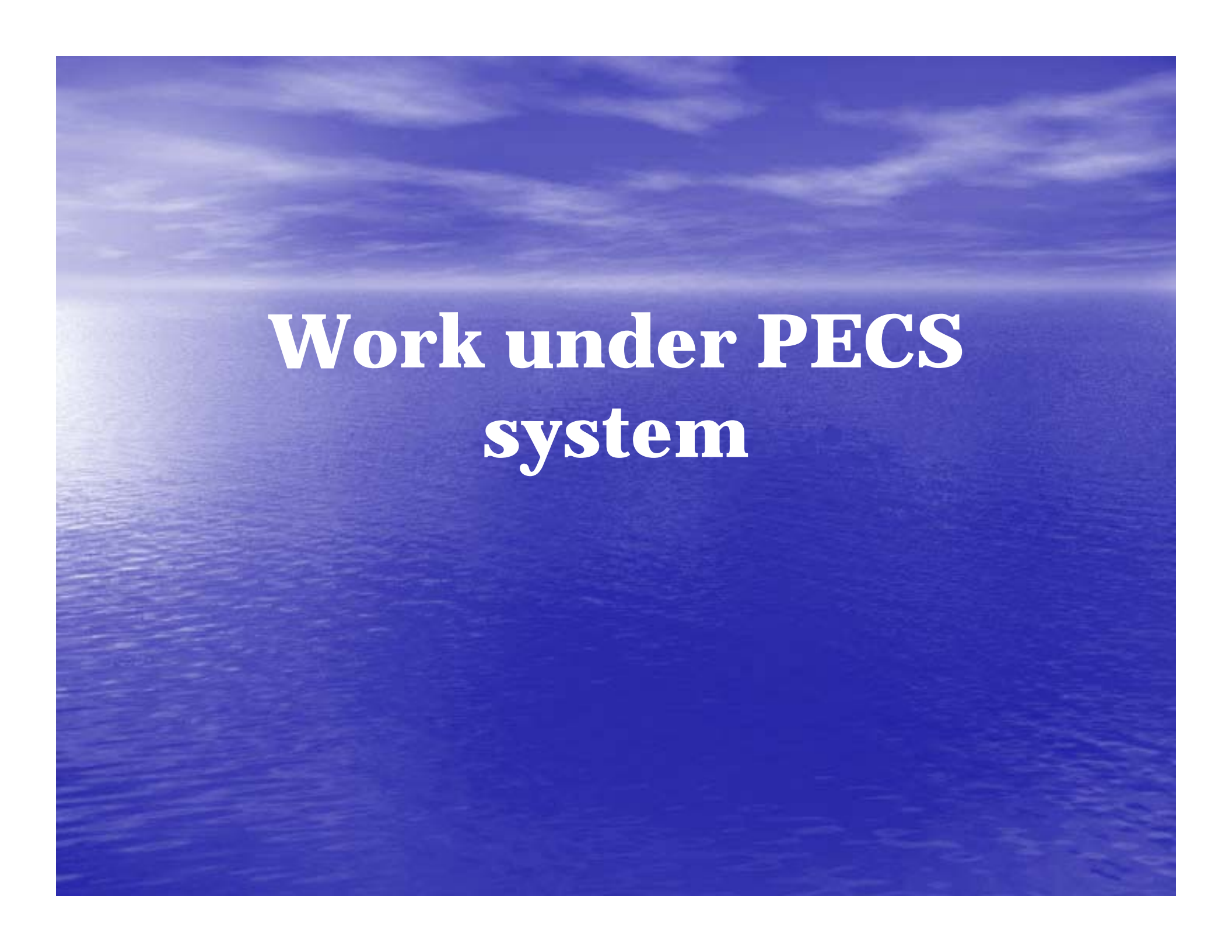
MONTESSORI



Social integration

A blue-tinted photograph of a vast ocean under a cloudy sky. The text "Work with children with autism:" is centered in the lower half of the image.

Work with children with autism:



Work under PECS system

A blue-tinted photograph of a vast ocean under a cloudy sky. The text "Sensory stimulation" is overlaid in white, bold, serif font, centered horizontally and slightly above the vertical center.

Sensory stimulation



Eco education

The background of the slide is a blue-tinted photograph of a vast ocean under a cloudy sky. The text "Special play ground" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, bold, serif font.

Special play ground



Partnership with parents



Education and resource center



Weak points in the process of incorporation in the education:

- lack of solid legislation on incorporating education of children with SEN;
- a great number of children/students in groups at kindergartens and in classes at mass schools;
- the mass teachers does not acquire training in special education;
- lack of experience of the mass teachers in working with children with SEN;
- lack of data basis (in Municipality of Varna) regarding the number of children with disabilities, besides the number of those with TELK;

- not enough special groups and classes for children with SEN at mass kindergartens or mass schools;
- presence of architecture and infrastructure barriers - loading platforms, WCs, lifts, equipment;
- unsuitable school materials for children with intellectual difficulties;
- lack of an adequate system of criteria for evaluation of the school achievements of the children with SEN.

Suggestions for a change:

- integration should not be considered absolute - the mass school with resource support is not suitable for all children with SEN. It is necessary to be established a special school, securing an adequate environment and meeting the individual and specific needs of each child.
- the society should be more widely informed - time on television on the problems of the integrated education, and on the other hand - National forum on manifestation of the talents of children with SEN;
- the children with SEN should be able to attend the kindergarten/school which is located in their region, i.e. more special groups/classes at the mass kindergartens and schools should be opened;
- methods, school schedules and textbooks updated for children with intellectual difficulties;
- motivation for the mass teacher, in whose class there is a child with SEN (extra remuneration);

- a decreased number of children in a group/class where there is a child with SEN;
- equal opportunities for participation in the out-of-school forms for the children with SEN;
- a preliminary introduction of the children with SEN to their future classmates through organization of summer centers for work with children - exhibitions, concerts, joint studies and summer camps;
- conformity with the opinion of the parents while taking a decision for direction by the Team for complex pedagogic evaluation at the Ministry of Education and Science.



**It is nice when we are
together**

- „We, the children, are not an expense but an investment. We are a source of problems and not resources. We are not only small people, but also citizens of this world. **You call us "future", but we are "presence" as well.** We want a worthy world for ourselves which will be the same for every other person."
- This is the mighty message by approximately 400 children from 100 nationalities who took part in the special session of children at the United Nations General Assembly, held on May 8-10, 2002 in New York.

Vision

- The school of 21st century - a school for everybody. Hospitable, accessible, securing effective education and social inclusion and development of children with SEN.