

VPOS 16 / A literary award to raise awareness about dementia

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Explaining dementia to children is not an easy task! A complex subject, sometimes a source of concern and misunderstanding, dementia is not often discussed with younger children, even though they are increasingly concerned by it in their family environment.

This is why the Fondation Médéric Alzheimer and Uniopss have decided to organise the Chronos Alzheimer award. After an experimental phase (2019 - 2021), the award (development phase) was launched in 2022. For the 2022/2023 school year, the project enters in a new step by continuing our initiative with the ambition of raising awareness of more and more children.

AIMS

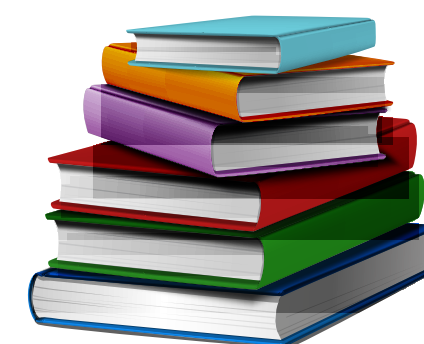
- To raise** children's awareness of dementia.
- To encourage** a caring glance.
- To promote** a more dementia friendly society and inter-age relations.

METHODS



Participants

Children (primary school level - 6 to 11 years old), people with dementia, accompanying adults (teachers, library staff, caregivers and animators...), several local France Alzheimer associations.

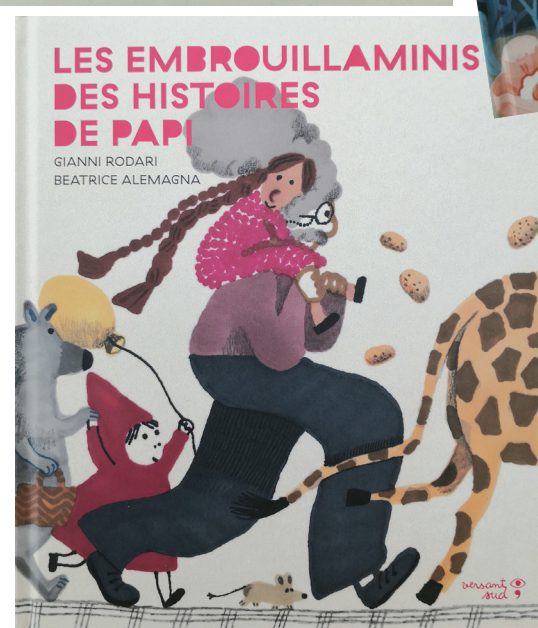


Means of action

A set of books in competition, a voting kit (voter's cards, ballot, counting sheet, proxy, etc.), and a booklet of adapted activities that allows to extend this awareness raising work. Writing, scientific activities, or plastic arts on memory, the brain, and dementia can be carried out in class, linked to their learning objectives.

MODALITIES OF ACTIONS

- The four selected children's books evoke dementia** from different angles (poetic, playful, tender, educational...), through stories that provide elements of understanding about dementia and its effects, encourage reflection and questioning, propose positive stories (portraying a real complicity between people with dementia and their grandchildren; evocation of actions to be taken... within the reach of children, with and for people with dementia).
- Complementary educational activities to raise children's awareness** about memory, aging and dementia.
- Intergenerational meetings between classes and people with dementia** living in nursing homes: presentation of dementia to the children by nursing home professionals, common activities, discussions on the selected books, voting and counting of the results, exhibition related to the books, festive snacks.
- Interventions with the children in certain classes or libraries by specialists** (France Alzheimer and the Fondation Médéric Alzheimer) to increase awareness.



PROCESS (Steps)



Launch of the award



Mailing of reading kits



Book discovery and discussion



intergenerational meetings



Voting



Award ceremony

RESULTS

More than **2,000** children sensitized

100 kits sent to classes, libraries, nursing home

87 locations (classes, libraries, nursing home) having participated

IMPACTS/ EFFECTS

- An initiative** that aroused a lot of curiosity and interest from the children for dementia (involvement, many questions and remarks, possible links with personal situations).
- Stimulation** of the creativity of the children but also of the people with dementia.
- Support for** the participation of people with dementia.
- Encouraging** children to talk about dementia more easily within the family unit.
- Valuation** of the people with dementia and the children during the intergenerational exchanges (example: presentation of artistic creations linked to the theme).
- Children more mindful** of the role they can play

CONCLUSION

The success of the 2022 edition of the Chronos Alzheimer award encourages us to continue and develop our action. By raising awareness of dementia among the younger generations, at a time in their lives when social representations are less fixed, this initiative aims to encourage the emergence of a caring glance among these adults and citizens of tomorrow.



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