VŠĮ Debesų Kiemas Lithuania

We Speak. They Nod. Nothing Changes.

Presented by:

Rugilė



About the project

Local level

In a small Lithuanian town, children felt unsafe in school—because of bullying, exclusion, or stress. Speaking up didn't help. Things stayed the same.

So they turned to the daycare centre, where they could finally talk. They wrote anonymous stories, drew "safe and unsafe zones," and shared what they did not dared to say in class. The message to adults: we are not okay—and you need to hear us.

Children's involvement

Children shared their personal experiences—through drawings, stories, and group talks.
They created "safety maps" of their schools, and wrote down what they wished adults would hear.
Rugile helped lead the process—facilitating conversations, collecting thoughts, and co-creating a visual display with messages from children.

Impacts and benefits

Creation of a safe emotional space at the daycare centre. Children now check in daily on how they feel, and a quiet zone was set up for emotional rest.

Children learned that their feelings matter. They gained emotional vocabulary, confidence, and a shared sense of courage.

They learned to speak up without fear and realised that change can begin with one child.

EU CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION PLATFORM