

Parent Testimonial

As a family raising two children with developmental disabilities, we have had the privilege of participating in the international project "Ukrainian Children in the Hands of Art" for the second consecutive year. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the outstanding team of professionals who supported our children during the rehabilitation programme at Pavel Banya Health Resort, Bulgaria.

Throughout the project, we were surrounded by highly qualified specialists whose professionalism, compassion, and dedication made an invaluable difference to our family. Valentyna Butenko, a specialist in the education and rehabilitation of children with visual impairments, demonstrated exceptional sensitivity and professionalism. She found an individual approach to each child, helping them become more attentive, focused, and confident. Throughout the programme, she became a trusted mentor and a source of emotional security for the children. Her warmth, kindness, and genuine care were evident in every activity, every conversation, and every word of encouragement.

Nataliia Pyliavets, Lecturer at the Department of Psychology, provided invaluable psychological support, creating an environment in which our children felt safe, accepted, and encouraged to communicate, explore new experiences, and develop emotionally.

Lesia Chopyk, an experienced specialist in visual impairment education, offered practical consultations and guidance that have become an essential resource for our family. The knowledge and strategies she shared will continue to help us better understand and support our children in everyday life. Her recommendations on creating a developmental play environment at home are truly invaluable for parents.

Meeting the Polish specialists was another unforgettable part of the project. Anna Maria Florek, Sensory Integration Therapist, and Alina Talukder, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, impressed our family not only with their expertise but also with their warmth, kindness, and sincere commitment to every child.

We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our host organisation in Bulgaria, especially Vera Aleksandrova, for her exceptional care, hospitality, and thoughtful attention to the individual needs of our family throughout our stay.

We sincerely thank the entire international project team for creating an atmosphere of respect, inclusion, trust, and joy. This project has undoubtedly strengthened our children's confidence and encouraged them to take important steps forward in their personal development.

For me, as a mother who had been experiencing emotional burnout, participation in the project became a powerful source of emotional recovery. I received not only professional guidance but also genuine understanding and personalised support. The atmosphere of empathy, acceptance, and respect significantly reduced my anxiety and reminded me that I am not alone in facing the challenges of raising children with disabilities. The opportunity to communicate with experienced professionals broadened my perspective, equipped me with new practical tools, and restored my confidence as a parent.

The impact on our children has been equally significant. In a safe, nurturing, and encouraging environment, they were able to express themselves freely, take initiative, enjoy meaningful interactions, and experience pride in their own achievements.

Our son Vanya has become much more confident in independent orientation and mobility, developed new self-care skills, and significantly improved his reading abilities. Our daughter Anya benefited greatly from working with the psychologist, speech therapist, and occupational therapist. As a result, she has become more confident, communicates more willingly, and experiences far less anxiety and fear.

As parents, we can clearly see that this experience has helped both of our children become more open to the world, more confident in interacting with others, and more motivated to embrace new opportunities for learning, growth, and independence.

This project has had a lasting positive impact on our entire family, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who made this life-changing experience possible.

