

CLT Newsletter

Produced and published by The Creative Learning Trust (Registered Charity No. 1171949)

No.2, December, 2018

A busy year!

In 2017 the Charity Commission gave us permission to establish The Creative Learning Trust (CLT). The CLT took over all the educational work of The Clinical Science & Education Foundation (CSEF), which is now closed. The CLT has the mandate to continue this work in Romania and to extend it to the United Kingdom.

During the year we have been able to significantly extend our portfolio of learning materials. Well over 100 different resources are now available, designed specifically for speech and language therapy (SLT) for both children and adults. The portfolio includes laminated A7, A6, A5 and A4 sets of themed cards, dominoes, ID-size plastic picture cards, laser engraved jigsaws and full colour printed acrylic tiles and jigsaws. Dioramas for a group of Romanian special needs children have also been produced (see [overleaf](#)).

We have also increased the number of recipients of our new resources. Currently, there are four organisations in Cluj-Napoca, Romania that we are collaborating with. These are the Hungarian School for the Deaf No.2 (now Kozmutza Flóra Hallássérültek Speciális Iskolája), Maltez Kindergarten, the Hungarian Reformed Church Kindergarten and the Transylvanian Autism Association. In the UK we are working with four early years and two adult SLT groups in Kent.



Mirela Codreanu (Director) *left* and Luciana Crisan (SLT) from the Maltez Kindergarten inspecting a batch of new resources from the CLT in September.

Tünde Gede (Teacher), Hungarian Reformed Church Kindergarten, studying the CLT portfolio following delivery of some new resources.



Producing resources

One of the strengths of the CLT is that it is not bound by any commercial considerations when it produces its resources. We do not make products in bulk that will be sold for profit. In fact, the materials are given free to all the recipients. Our goal is to make products that are economical, highly effective and liked and enjoyed both by those having therapy and the therapists. Whenever possible, we try to undertake most, if not all of the production work in-house.

Over the past year we have been developing methods of laser cutting and engraving acrylic sheets for jigsaws. We also make acrylic jigsaws with high resolution coloured images. We are able to produce all the necessary software ourselves, using specialist firms for the laser work and the printing. There are now 20 laser engraved and 6 colour printed jigsaws available.



Selection of laser cut, engraved and colour printed acrylic jigsaws for early years speech and language therapy.

Laurie Whelan Education Awards

In July this year the Romanian National Society of Family Medicine in Cluj-Napoca ran a course for nurses working in GP practices. Our Romanian colleague, Dr. Emiliană Costiugă, informed us that some 40 nurses had attended. The themes were nutrition and vaccination. The intensive sessions ran from 09.00 - 17.00 and five lecturers participated in the course, all kindly giving their services free of any charge.

Another important aspect of these awards is the support for the postgraduate vocational training of young Romanian GPs. During 2018 two young doctors were sponsored to attend a course on cardiac failure in GP's practice.

Acknowledgements

Four Romanian organisations have provided important support to the CLT during 2018.

SC Creativbau SRL (formally SC Policonstructii SRL) 1) Completed an upgrade to a corridor at a Children's Hospital, sponsored by the CSEF; 2) Redecorated the Skills Room (created by the CSEF) at the Hungarian School for the Deaf No.2 and used for life skills lessons and for birthday celebrations.

SC Pretext Advertising SRL. Produced laser cut and engraved learning resources and fabricated items for dioramas.

SC Publisys SRL. Undertook colour printing of plastics materials.

SC Verla (Printshop) SRL. Printed educational posters.

A number of people in Romania are crucial for our work there. We sincerely thank **Cristina Stan, Cornel Pop, Istvan Szekely, Claudia Jeler, Norbert Kiss** and **Robert Nagy** for their very kind help and invaluable support.



The refurbished Skills Room at the Hungarian School for the Deaf No.2 that was damaged by a plumbing leak from above the room.

A miniature Starbucks!

In 2017 we developed 16 miniature dioramas for the Transylvanian Autism Association in Cluj-Napoca. Subsequently, we introduced a group of three dioramas into a class at the Hungarian School No.2. The class has 11-14 year olds with learning difficulties.



A diorama (left) of a garden, having a fixed, clear plastic picture frame at the rear. This enabled different seasonal backgrounds to be readily added.

This led us to design a multipurpose, portable assembly with two removable picture frames that slot into a wooden base. By using appropriate background images and miniature furniture, etc. any themed scene can be created quickly. The pictures *top, right* show the assembly being set up for a stall selling fruit and vegetables, a football match and a well-known coffee shop!

Comments from Mónika Dózsa, Form Teacher.

Most activities that we do in our day-to-day life require the use of hand coordination, which is very poorly developed in some special needs children. They tend to be uncoordinated, rather clumsy manipulating objects and involuntarily breaking/bending things. Rehabilitation methods often focus on developing these skills.

When I was first introduced to miniature dioramas I was both fascinated and terrified. I was sure the miniature things would not last seconds in their hands. I was proven wrong. Our 5th graders seemed to magically change their hands while handling these tiny objects. They had not seen anything like this before, so they studied, felt and held them with much more attention and care, developing better hand coordination. It also opened a new world of imagination where speech development became a creative game and not an old boring learning activity.

Last week we took our class to the Starbucks in Iulius Mall. They were very happy. After a few days I took out the miniature coffee shop. They were very surprised! It was nice to see how they could re-enact what they saw and did at the real Starbucks. The task was to copy the room, who was around us, what they saw and liked. (pictures right). It was a wonderful speech development session.

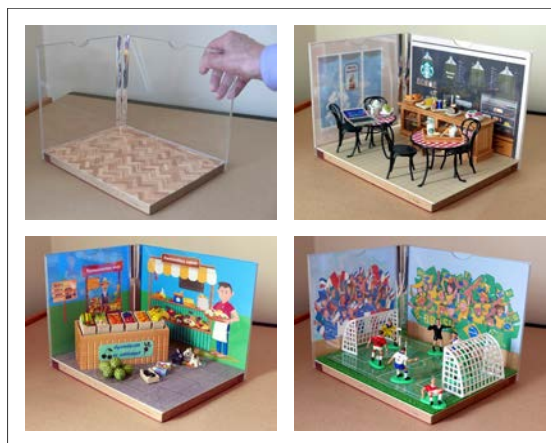
Making a difference

Leaving a gift to charity in your will is a wonderful way for your generosity to last beyond your own lifetime. If your estate is liable to Inheritance Tax, you could reduce the amount of tax due by choosing to give money to charity. The value of any gift left to a charity in your will is not included when valuing your estate for the purposes of tax.



A legacy to the CLT can make a great impact on the future work of the Trust. The bequest can be a monetary donation or personal property that can be sold to raise funds. Legacies should be made to

the general fund and not to individual projects whose targets may already have been achieved.



Setting up the new assembly and the three new dioramas.

Next year's work

New resources

The CLT will continue developing new products in 2019. We want to make basic ('starter') sets of 12-15 resources to give to selected UK speech and language therapists. Six sets of our basic resources have been requested by adult clinics in Kent. Further dioramas will be manufactured. **Cost: £2,800**



photos from Mónika Dózsa

Above: Concentration!

Right: The children's impression of the coffee shop.



Classroom maintenance

The continued maintenance of the Romanian therapy rooms and classrooms originally established by the CSEF in Cluj-Napoca is extremely important. Many rooms require attention. **Cost: £6.000**

The Laurie Whelan Education Awards

The CLT intends to continue supporting the vocational training of Romanian healthcare workers. In particular, we want to sponsor young GPs attending a course on communication, chronic diseases and prevention of infectious diseases that is being organised next year by the University of Medicine Cluj. **Cost: £750**

Thank you for your support

There are more immediate ways of supporting our work. You can send us a bank cheque, Charities Aid Foundation or Stewardship donation, made payable to the 'CLT'. The cheque should be mailed to:

Dr. David R. White, CLT, 24 Cherry Walk, Hayes, BROMLEY, Kent, BR2 7LT. (Tel: 020 8462 7944)

Alternatively, you can transfer donations by Internet banking:

Account Name: The Creative Learning Trust (CLT)

Account No: 03444860; **Sort Code:** 77-70-48

BIC/SWIFT: TSBSGB2AXXX; **IBAN:** GB18 TSBS 7770 4803 444860