

Participant 9 – River of experience

My teaching activity began in 1995 as an instructor with the children's team at the 'Zhuravka' sanatorium-wellness centre. This was my first serious practical experience working with children.

In 1996, I graduated from Lutsk Teacher's College. I completed my studies as a junior specialist in the category 'Elementary school teacher, director of a children's choreographic group'. In this same year, I gave birth to my first daughter.

1998 My second daughter was born with congenital visual defects. During this period (1996-1999), I worked concurrently as the director of a choreographic group at the Zhuravychiv school, taught mathematics to children at the school in the village of Domashiv, and in the summer I was a teacher at a summer camp in a sanatorium-wellness centre.

1999 I decided to complete my higher education. I entered Lesya Ukrainka Volyn State University. I owe a debt of thanks for all her support to my now deceased mother. My husband and his relatives believed that a woman did not need education: farming, gardens, family were enough.

2002 In my hands - my dream post-secondary degree, with honors, which I was very proud of. Behind me was 1.5 years of experience working in a small (one-room) school. A year of work at the Zhuravychi Village School I-III, my first set of first graders, who always motivated me to move forward. During this period, I was elected head of the main organization of the trade union of education workers, and also head of the school methodological association of elementary school teachers. Despite a lack of time (in addition to my core teaching work, there was also my family and the rehabilitation of my daughter, requiring travel four times a year), but I seemed to have enough energy. My desire to study did not disappear over time. The professional press offered me the opportunity to not only acquaint myself with the work of others, but also to try to implement advanced pedagogical innovations in my own work. Open lessons at regional seminars, speeches, and reports before of colleagues - these were my first 'exits from my zone of comfort.'

2005 My first elementary school graduates (trips and outings with pupils and their parents, family holidays and celebrations when we were a one classroom family. Everything ended). New students, a new parent team, and terrible news - the death of my father. Depression. Divorce. Fighting (defending one's rights) for one's own children. Against the background of these 'emotional swings', I immersed myself even more in my work.

2008 Winner of the Teacher of the Year competition. During this period, I was 'noticed' by the elementary school methodologist of the district education department. Thanks to her, I was able to attend the innovative 'Intel - Training for the Future' and 'Microsoft, Partnership in Training' programs. A computer scientist colleague from school remarked that I wouldn't be able to manage, because I don't even have basic computer skills. Fortunately, I believed in myself and was not afraid. I successfully mastered programming skills and bought my first computer. Educational materials with the use of ICT were in short supply, so I searched for any materials I could find and bought them. I really wanted changes in the educational process. I was tired of using peer templates. I wanted something dynamic, bright, and interesting for students. I remarried. And once again, loss - I was left without my mother. Teaching and community work saved me from deep

depression. (At this time, I ran in local election races and served as a member of election commissions from 2007 to date).

2009 Birth of my third daughter. Rehabilitation after difficult childbirth. Maternity leave. Limited communication. All this left its mark. I felt like I was degrading. At a family meeting, we all agreed that I would go to work when she turned one. And so it was.

2010 First grade again, new parents and new pupils. We worked fruitfully together. Another whirlwind: open lessons at the district level, presentations of experience, professional development courses, public activities.

2014 The war in the east adjusted our measured life. First, volunteering. My children and I made a poppy flower (*kanzashi* technique) for Reconciliation Day. Then these flowers were sold at our bazaar. The proceeds were used to buy things necessary for the soldiers (hygiene products, socks, etc.) and we sent them to the east. Then there was the Easter campaign for the soldiers, a 'Traveler' doll-talisman, the collection of clothes and food items, etc.

2017 Elementary school reform was actively discussed. Pilot classes of the New Ukrainian School were launched. Actively involved in learning about the new paradigm of education.

2018 Was invited to join the team of NUS regional trainers. Involved in the Play team of trainers of the Volyn region from The LEGO Foundation. New knowledge, new opportunities, new acquaintances. Close communication with NUS lead trainers on the national level gave a deeper understanding of the importance of this reform. The training of trainers, parallel courses at EdEra, the opportunity to try out new educational products for first graders with fourth graders produced valuable results.

2019 Expert in the certification of elementary school teachers. My first EdCamp.

2020 The coronavirus pandemic changed our reality. The first challenge was distance learning: not all families had the ability to engage children in online learning. We worked synchronously - asynchronously, in various applications. I had to learn new digital tools at a fast pace. I successfully passed the certification for elementary school teachers. The process lasted a year. I piloted the course 'Creating a Good Neighbourhood Culture' in the Volyn region.

2021 Expert in institutional audit. Trainer of elementary school teachers for teaching the course 'Creating a Good Neighbourhood Culture'. As a NUS trainer, I was involved in training at the Volyn Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education. Supervisor. My work was evaluated and, according to the results of my attestation, I was awarded the title of 'Senior Teacher'.

2022. We all became accustomed to distance learning. The war turned everything upside down. A small number of my students went abroad. The rest remained at home. We studied remotely. Morning meetings were reformatted into evening gatherings. I met with my pupils every day. We talked about different things: the weather, thoughts, expectations, and hopes. We discussed the day we had lived through. We looked into any tasks that were unclear. And we also drew and created things. We tried to relax together.

