The Minipally program at a glace

Minipally is a program to promote the development of social skills in children aged 0 to 5. In particular, it focuses on **basic social skills, the communication** and **expression of emotions, self-control skills and problem-solving skills.**

The program offers daycare educators 16 workshops intended for all the children in their group. These workshops are designed to help children learn and practise new skills. Following each workshop, and as times progresses, educators and parents will help the children gradually integrate these new skills. The workshops in the *Minipally* program are presented in a specific order, which is important to follow. New concepts presented in each workshop always draw on skills introduced in the previous workshops.

Since October 2013, an adapted version of the program has been available, called *Minipally for Little Ones*. This version is intended more specifically for children aged 0 to 2. The workshops in *Minipally for Little Ones* do not aim to force social interactions between children. Rather, this complement to the basic program emphasizes the importance of offering very young children a supportive educational environment that will help them go toward others by choice, with confidence.

In order to foster continuity and consistency of learning, each workshop includes a "Message to parents" sheet. These messages explain the concepts introduced at the daycare and invite parents to help their child continue practising these new skills at home.

To carry out the workshops, the educator calls on *Minipally*, a cheerful little puppet mouse. The mouse engages the children's participation and serves as a model. Like the children, *Minipally* is generally very happy, but sometimes he has problems in his interactions with others. In each case, he proposes ways of dealing with the situation or asks the children for their suggestions. *Minipally* explains what happened to him and what he has learned with his friends Tickle Rabbit, Grady the Monkey, and Max the Dog.

The little mouse tells the children everything he thinks and everything he does so as to help them remember the appropriate actions, words or attitudes for applying the social skills being learned.

Minipally is very attentive throughout each workshop. He congratulates children who emulate the proposed behaviours, encourages those who make an effort to practise the new skills, and is careful to maintain and foster the self-esteem of each child.

Have fun!