

FOR THE RIGHT TO ENJOY AS CHILDREN

ESCOLA PIA BALMES (BARCELONE)

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Not all children have the same opportunities. This fact is evident and is marked by factors such as place of birth, health and family situation.

For children and adolescents in vulnerable situations, access to an accompaniment outside school hours to make school reinforcement, but also to enjoy an educational leisure, is a way to combat inequality factors.

Rotllana Balmes was born as a response to this childhood reality. The project serves children and adolescents and their families who are at risk of social exclusion in the districts of Sarrià-Sant Gervasi and Gracia. This is a Camins project. Fundació Social Escola Pia that takes place at the facilities of the Escola Pia Balmes for the attention, outside school hours, this means in the afternoon and during the summer vacations, for the accompaniment of the most vulnerable children.

Until 2020, the Sarrià-Sant Gervasi district did not have any resource offering this service. For this reason, the district's Social Services created this social service.

"They are children with a very loaded emotional backpack, with situations such as evictions, gender violence, parental unemployment... They need an accompaniment that their families cannot do". This is what Mariona, coordinator of the Rotllana-Balmes project, explains. For this reason, from this socio-educational space, great importance is given to accompaniment, socialization and the management of emotions.

The two main areas of intervention are educational reinforcement and leisure education. The first offers a follow-up and reinforcement of the educational task in close coordination with the school and reinforcing the aspects that need it most. On the other hand, leisure education works on comprehensive education through activities that work on competencies such as health education, personal growth, social competence, education in values, among others.

"For me, La Rotllana is a place where you can have fun, do homework and eat". This is how Víctor, a Rotllana Balmes participant, explains what this project means to him.

The socio-educational center is a space where they can develop in an effective and safe way, a space to be children and adolescents and enjoy being them while finding the skills that will allow them to be the people they want to be in the future. It is also important to consider that the family is the basic social unit that ensures the protection and development of its members, which is why we also work to reinforce the family's capacities. For this reason, community work has a relevant weight to promote this last dimension, since it promotes the socialization and social integration of children and adolescents and their families.

Camins. Fundació Social Escola Pia is a non-profit organization that accompanies children and young people in situations of social vulnerability so that they can have access to a better future through education. Each year it serves about 1,600 people and is present in 12 municipalities in Catalonia. The Foundation's projects have three areas of action: childhood and families (where we find socio-educational centers, as well as youth mentoring projects and shelter for asylum-seeking families), youth (with pre-employment training actions, housing with educational support for young people in exile, shelter for young homeless migrants and emancipation itineraries towards success) and international cooperation (with projects in Mexico and West Africa).

<https://balmes.escolapia.cat/rotllana-balmes-i-lescola-a-tv3/>



