



THE FIRST PIPE CONFERENCE FOR CHILDREN

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The First Children's Pipe Conference, dedicated to International Children's Day, was held at the POLYPLASTIC Group on 31 May 2013.

25 children – all sons and daughters of POLYPLASTIC Group employees – aged from 6 to 13, took part in the conference.

Just like any other conference, participants needed to register on arrival. Everyone was given a badge, and welcomed with tea, juice and freshly-baked cakes.

The conference started with some theory and a presentation from the POLYPLASTIC Group. The children were shown a film about the role of





water in human life – and told about the importance of saving water. They learned about the history of water pipelining and the creation and development of the pipe market. They also heard about the range of plastic pipes and their advantages, and got a quick guide to the products and materials produced by the group. The whole production cycle, from production processes, through installation to delivery to the customer was explained in very a simple and engaging way.

The next presentation, from the POLYMERTEPLO Group, told an interesting and engaging story about pipes for hot water and heating, their classification, use and installation. The presentation was followed by a demonstration of an ISOPROFLEX-A pipe installation.

The children were very serious about the conference: they watched the presentations, listened carefully, made notes and answered all the questions together. Just like adults, they asked plenty of good questions during the panel discussions too. They learned about the differences between metal and plastic pipes and understood the advantages of plastic “because water purity and its saving in our houses depend on it.” The most active participants were given prizes.

Arguably the most interesting part came next – a practical study of pipe connection technologies. The participants were split into four groups on four sites (pipe cutting, butt welding, electrofusion, and compression fittings). The groups were given a flag and moved to another site upon completion of each stage.

The children were shown the pipe cutting tools for different diameters, from 20 mm to 110 mm, and were given the task of cutting a 32 mm pipe for the following stage. Then they had to use their cut section to make





the shape of a number using compression fittings. All groups did a great job and made the number 2013 – the year of the First Children Conference.

They were given a demonstration of the welding machine and were even allowed to press buttons, cut the pipe edges and weld the 315 mm pipe. All the leftovers, cuts and shavings, were taken as souvenirs.

Every group got four flags each and even after the practical lesson was finished no one wanted to leave. They had to be encouraged so they weren't late for lunch!

After lunch at the Business Centre, they went to the AND Gaztrubplast Plant to visit the R&D Centre and the POLYPLASTIC Research Institute.

They visited two laboratories – thermal analysis and rheology of plastics. There they were shown some of the instruments used for plastics behaviour research during heating and cooling, they learned how to use optical microscopes and were allowed to look at fingerprints, coins, and a drop of ink on the paper. The classic experiment of instantly freezing a rose in liquid nitrogen made a particularly strong impression.

The conference participants were told about composite materials at the R&D Centre, and they were shown the lab, where they could see the extrusion and forming machines used for plastics processing.

The children were very excited about the last task of the day – to draw a picture showing the pipe production process. They drew pictures together and by themselves. All the pictures made a great story about their visit to the plant and contained kind and sincere messages to the POLYPLASTIC Group.

The conference participants received gifts and certificates for “passing the course for young plastic pipes



specialists” and then launched some balloons to celebrate.

The event was full of positive new experiences. All the children were active, mindful and curious, they made friends and were very relaxed. They learned new things and had a good time.

The parents said that they were talking all about pipes during the weekend and that they asked them many questions.

We’re sure the children will grow up to become hardworking employees; most of them have already said they’d like to work for POLYPLASTIC. We hope they’ll remember their trip with fondness for a long time to come.

The event organisers certainly had a great time with the children. And we hope that this event will become a great tradition in the POLYPLASTIC calendar.

