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TITLE OF DIPLOMA THESIS:

Health and safety in nurseries, kindergartens and playgrounds. The case study of the Municipal nursery "Agios Stylianos" of Thessaloniki.

AUTHOR: Kyanidou Evangelia

ABSTRACT

This thesis aims at assessing the health and safety conditions prevailing in places where infants and young children gather, such as in nurseries and kindergartens. The ultimate goal is to codify the risks and problems lurking in these places because of their specificity to host a large number of people, who do not have the physical ability and the mental clarity to react in an emergency situation. The improvement of the existing facts and the organization of instructions for the smooth functioning of these host places in the interests and safety of children is of paramount importance, because it will highlight any bad practices and shortcomings in the current Greek law, while at the same time the results of the research will lead to better design actions to improve health and safety conditions at the premises of nurseries and kindergartens. The first chapter of the thesis is an introduction to the topic that will be developed. It is presented the purpose of selecting this particular project and the methodology which was used in order to be structured correctly and completely. The second chapter analyzes the concepts of health and safety in kindergartens and nurseries. It lists the factors that influence these concepts and the existing legislation in the subject. Furthermore, it is made a comprehensive presentation of the pieces that make up this broad and sensitive subject of health and safety. The third chapter is dedicated to playgrounds. As the thesis concerns the health and safety of children, it was important the creation of a separate chapter that includes the design of the playgrounds. This chapter provides a complete guide on playgrounds, including standards and specifications for the design of premises and equipment and components for proper design, implementation, installation, operation and maintenance of playgrounds. The fourth chapter is the presentation of a study of implementing all of the above information. The case of the Municipal Crèche "Agios Stylianos" of Thessaloniki was the perfect choice for the implementation of health and safety standards, as this is an institution that houses children aged from two months to five years. The fifth chapter lists the conclusions reached following the study and practice of health and safety issues. Also they are given suggestions for correction and improvement in areas that were judged weak. The annex A includes all the emergency evacuation plans and useful information that was not entered in the main part of the thesis.

KEYWORDS

Health, safety, nurseries, kindergartens, playgrounds.

