

Dalton in Brno

Presentation of Czech Dalton Association



Vladimír Moškvan, Lukáš Bajer
(Brno, 2004)

What is Dalton?

Dalton is no method, no system. It's an influence.

Helen Parkhurst

- Educational way concentrating on development of an individual child in means of „guided self-education“
- Introduced by Helen Parkhurst in Dalton (Mass.,USA), 1920
- Used in the UK during the 1930s (connected to educational psychology of J.Dewey and P. Příhoda)
- Spread all over the world (the Netherlands, Australia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Japan, China etc.)

Basic facts on the Dalton Plan

- Three basic principles:
 - Freedom
 - Independence
 - Cooperation

Freedom

- The most discussed principle of today, for it gives an impression of „no rules at all“.
- Often replaced by **responsibility**
- Dalton education allows teacher to create atmosphere which invites the pupil to take the responsibility for education
- Using given assignments, the pupil learns both about the freedom and how to deal with it
- It teaches basic needs of their future professional lives: they learn to be able „to stand on their own“, to be responsible not only for themselves, but also for their surround etc.



Some means of Freedom

Pupil's Freedom

- choosing the working-place
- choosing the way of work – either alone, or in group
- choice in asking/not asking for help
- choosing the most suitable tools
- choice in planning and timing
- choice in handling the leisure time

Teacher's freedom

- choice in the program – amount of activities, types of activities
- choice of materials, textbooks, tools offered to pupils
- choice in evidence of done work
- choice in preparing the pupils for independent work
- choice in way of checking pupil's knowledge

Independence

*„We learn the most when we succeed alone,
when we figure something out.“*

- Problems of motivation is solved – child has autonomy of learning for which it's being responsible.
- Working alone/in small groups demands finding own ways/methods of solving problems – it supports both creativity and ability to think
- It teaches the skill of planning the work and leisure time
- Different types of activities offer enough space to everyone
- Pupil's independence allows teacher to differentiate

Cooperation

„Dalton is a way of relating to others.“

- Learning to respect other members of society became one of the most important needs of the world today
- Ability to cooperate must be learned
- Dalton invites everyone to take a place in the work of the group, at the same time guarantying the basic social-needs of every human being
- Basic models of relationships:
 - pupil ■ pupil;
 - pupil ■ teacher;
 - teacher ■ teacher.

Dalton means of work

- among many others, some interesting means of work:
 - Assignment
 - House
 - Laboratory
 - Delayed Attention

Assignment

- Dalton principles are realized through the means of an assignment
- Assignment serves the pupil to recognize an amount of work to be done in a precisely specified time
- A well-prepared assignment is more than just a long list of activities, its an educational project
- Work on an assignment is cooperation of pupil and teacher – the teacher knows the pupils and the pupils know the teacher's requirements
- Work on assignment needs thorough planning – it teaches the basic skills of progress organizing



Contents of an assignment

- Core material
 - Minimum educational goals every pupil has to learn
- Options
 - Differentiation activities which allow an individual pupil to pursue his/her own goals. Options should either enlarge the core material or offer extra-curricular topics
- Extra-activities
 - Invite pupils to both entertain and learn in non-traditional ways (chess game, special computer educational programs, the Internet, etc.)
- Every assignment is closed by test/exam period



House

- Lesson designed for root-classes
- Pupils meet every day in the morning to discuss actual topics, they learn organizational information
- Pupils learn to participate in discussion on topics important for their life, for the life of school community, for society
- Used highly especially at Dalton School in New York

Laboratory

- A special lesson made for a pupil to work independently on the given assignment in own speed and pace
- Time of laboratory must be planned in advance, the pupil enters the teacher's lessons also for consultations

Delayed Attention

- Special time of a lesson defined by a teacher
- It enables the pupil to work independently for a specified amount of time – “the teacher does not exist”
- It teaches pupils the ability to work independently upon the teacher, to be able to ask classmates for help,
- The teacher has time to help less gifted pupils
- As for primary schools, the delayed attention section is often specified by a special toy placed on a visible place

Dalton teacher

- Crucial in application of Dalton principles
- Good cooperation of the staff is essential
- Resignation on a domination in the classroom
- Creativity



Basic responsibilities of a Dalton teacher

- Discuss with pupil continuously during the lessons and apart from them (in group or individually)
- Give advice for study
- Prepare the work-plan with the pupils
- Prepare for the exams together with the pupils
- Be aware of problems in other subjects and be able to react when it's necessary
- Take care of unusual absence
- Allow parents to come to school
- Propose the future pupil's education together with the pupils and their parents (after the discussion with the educational advisor)

Czech Dalton Association

Basic facts

- Established in 1996 in Brno
- Dalton schools in Moravia and Bohemia (contacts also in Slovakia)
- Enthusiastic teachers and supporters throughout the Czech Republic

Activities

- Workshops and Conferences
- Translation of textbooks
- Contacts with Dalton Schools in New York, Sydney, Utrecht, Vienna, Bergen, Moscow, Portadown, Nagoya and Tokyo
- Cooperation with CERNEDA (Central European Network of Dalton Schools in Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Slovakia)

Cooperation of CDA

The Netherlands	state schools approx. 230	short-term attachments materials conferences
Dalton School New York	private school prestigious	materials conferences
Ascham Sydney	private school girl school	short-term attachments materials conferences
Dalton Japan Nagoya, Tokyo	private schools	materials conferences



Cooperation of CDA

Dalton Moscow Ecopolis 1080	state school succesful	conferences
CERNEDA Austria Slovakia Hungary Germany (Gerwish)	state schools	short-term attachments materials conferences
Universities Utrecht, Linz, Brno, Pardubice, Praha		materials workshops, seminars

Czech Dalton Schools

- Till today, teachers from more than 131 school visited Dalton conferences organized by CDA

Pilot Dalton Schools *

- Chalabalova Dalton School
 - Křídlovická Dalton School
 - Husova Dalton School
 - Mutěnická Dalton School
- Today, more than 25 schools apply Dalton elements in education

Basic information on the curriculum organization in Czech Republic

- Czech Republic still has defined a national curriculum/national standards
- the schools are bound to follow given topics, which allows to vary **not in the contents, but in form of education**
- the schools are not “full” Dalton schools, where pupils pursue only their own fields of interest – our pupils have an amount of compulsory work to be done and mastered, they can differentiate and pursue own goals in options
- a less specified standards planned for the next year – problems of entrance exams for secondary schools

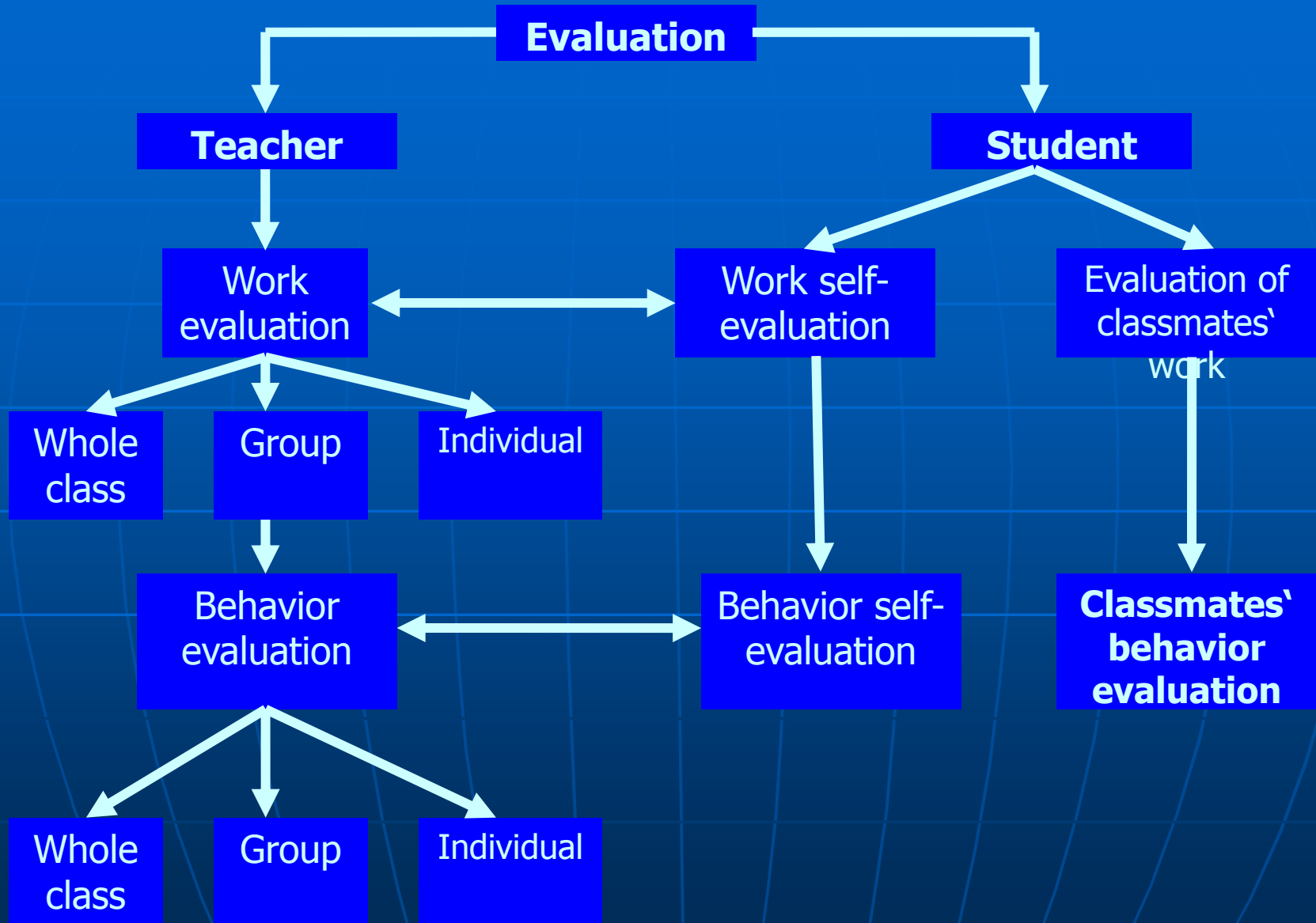
Organization of a Dalton work

- different models used at the schools:
 - Chalabalova Dalton School
 - Campaign model – Dalton lessons in various subjects in a specified period – stresses planning the work and time organization
 - Křídlovická Dalton School
 - Block lessons – several subjects decided to take participation in Dalton education for the whole school year, blocks repeat in a given timetable, stresses pupil's portfolios
 - Husova Dalton School
 - Subject model – defines Dalton assignments within one subject, stresses planning and evaluation of work

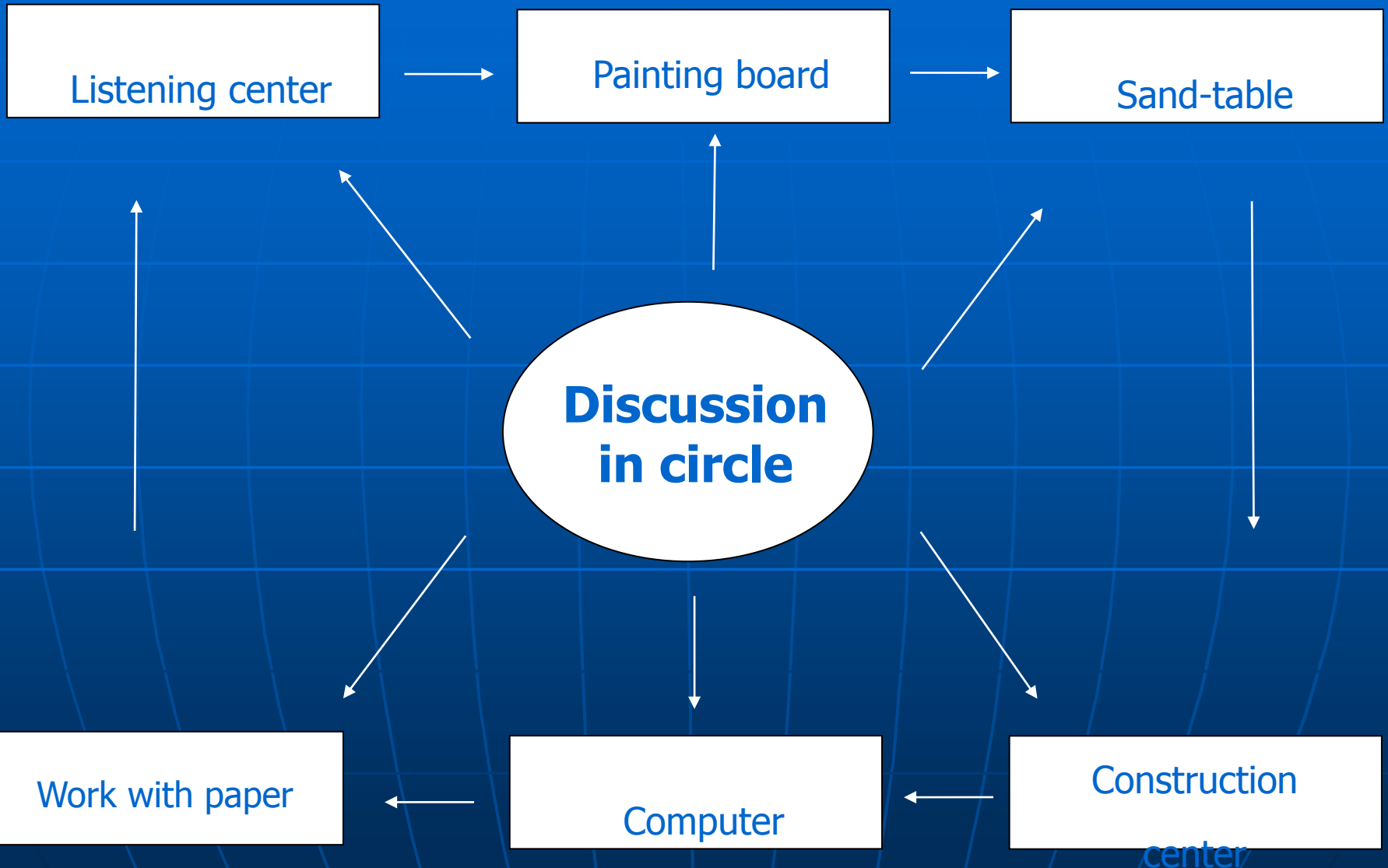
Dalton lesson: A Description

- Instruction
 - Compulsory activities
 - Optional activities
- Delayed attention
- Independent work
- Administration/Paper work
- Evaluation
 - Self-evaluation
 - Evaluation following a book
 - Handing handouts etc.
- Other activities
- Summary + teacher's evaluation

Dalton lesson: Evaluation



Dalton lesson: Primary school



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Ways of monitoring finished work

	Cards with activity-symbols					
	Work with paper	Computer	Listening center	Painting board	Sand - table	Const. center
Tony	○	○	○			
John	○	○	○	○		
Petra		○	○	○		
Jane	○			○	○	

Dalton Lesson: Lower Secondary

- Basic sections of Dalton lesson organization remain
- Realization differ school from school according to the “model” of Dalton work the school uses
- Despite the different ways of realization, the principles of Dalton are being respected, as well as the demand for individualized learning

Husova Dalton School

Úkolový list

Jméno: _____

Číslo úkolu	Název projektu	Body	Plzeňský právek	Správné číslo	
	Hodnocení práce	1	1	1	
	Hodnocení		2	2	2
	Jak to vidím já	Jak to vidí učitel	3	3	3
Ověření uč.	Maty	Maty	4	4	4
			5	5	5
			6	6	6
Ověření uč.			7	7	7
			8	8	8
			9	9	9
Ověření uč.			10	10	10
			11	11	11
			12	12	12
Jak to vidí učitel?			13	13	13
	redovně	redovně	14	14	14
			15	15	15
Jak to vidí učitel?			16	16	16
			17	17	17
			18	18	18
Jak to vidí učitel?			19	19	19
			20	20	20
			21	21	21
Jak to vidí učitel?			22	22	22
			23	23	23
			24	24	24
Jak to vidí učitel?			25	25	25

Poznámky

- Task List
- Dalton Organizer

Portfolio – Křídlovická Dalton School

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Contacts



- Dalton International
 - www.daltoninternational.org
- Czech Dalton Association
 - www.chalabalova.cz
- Pilot Schools:
 - Chalabalova Dalton School: www.chalabalova.cz
 - Křídlovická Dalton School: www.zskridlovicka.cz
 - Husova Dalton School: www.zshusovadalton.cz
 - Mutěnická Dalton School: